

A GUIDE TO SYRINGE DISPOSAL

Why Are Needles Dangerous?

All needles should be treated as if they carry a disease (such as hepatitis and HIV/AIDS). That means that if someone gets stuck with a needle, they could become infected with a disease that may be on the needle.



Therefore, they would have to get extensive medical tests and worry about whether they have caught a harmful or deadly disease. You have the power to prevent a situation like this simply by safely disposing of your used needles. Do not place others at risk when safe alternatives are currently available.

To avoid needle sticks at home and protect garbage and recycling workers, don't do the following:

- Don't* throw used needles, syringes, or lancets in the garbage.
- Don't* put needles in recycling containers.
- Don't* flush needles down the toilet.
- Don't* put needles into used plastic milk jugs, bleach bottles, or soda bottles.

To properly and legally dispose of used needles, do the following:

- Do* use an approved disposal container.
- Do* find a collection center for proper disposal.

To receive a free, empty sharps container or to drop off a full sharps container, visit:



County of Siskiyou –
Public Health
810 South Main St,
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 841-2156

DISPOSE OF YOUR EXCESS MEDICATION SAFELY

Easy as 1-2-3! Follow These Steps:

1



Obscure personal
info from containers
& recycle them.

2



Place pills in clear
zipper bag.

3



Place zipper pill
bag into the bin.



Disposing of your medicines properly will ensure that your medicines will not be stolen from the garbage, will not enter our environment, and deters abuse and overdoses at home.

Sheriff Main Office
305 Butte Street,
Yreka CA 96097
Mon—Thu
9:00 am—Noon
1:00 pm—4:00 PM
Phone (530) 842-8300

MEDICAL WASTE



SISKIYOU COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL SERVICES

190 GREENHORN ROAD
YREKA, CA 96097
PHONE: (530) 842-8272
FAX: (530) 841-2800
MON—FRI
8:00 AM—5:00 PM

WWW.CO.SISKIYOU.CA.US

SAFE MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

What is prescription drug abuse?

Prescription drug abuse is when someone takes a prescription drug that was prescribed for someone else or in a manner or dosage other than what was prescribed. Abuse can include taking a friend's or relative's prescription to get high, to help with studying, or even to treat pain.



What are the most commonly abused prescription and over-the-counter drugs?

Opioids (such as the pain relievers OxyContin and Vicodin), central nervous system depressants, and stimulants are the most commonly abused prescription drugs. Some drugs that are available without a prescription—also known as over-the-counter drugs—also can be dangerous if they aren't taken according to the directions on the packaging.

What happens when you abuse prescription drugs?

Abusing prescription drugs can have negative short- and long-term health consequences. Stimulant abuse can cause paranoia, dangerously high body temperatures, and an irregular heartbeat, especially if taken in high doses or by routes other than in pill form. The abuse of opioids can cause drowsiness, nausea, constipation, and, depending on the amount taken, slowed breathing.

Abusing depressants can cause slurred speech, shallow breathing, fatigue, disorientation, lack of coordination, and seizures (upon withdrawal from chronic abuse). Abuse of any of these substances may result in physical dependence or addiction.

Abusing over-the-counter drugs—which usually involves taking doses much higher than recommended for treating coughs and colds—can impair motor function (such as walking or sitting up); produce numbness, nausea, and vomiting; and increase heart rate and blood pressure. Abusing any type of mind-altering drug can affect judgment and inhibition and may put a person at heightened risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).



Aren't prescription drugs safer than illegal drugs, such as cocaine or heroin?

No. Many people think that abusing prescription drugs is safer than abusing illicit drugs like heroin because the manufacturing of prescription drugs is regulated or because they are prescribed by doctors. But that doesn't mean these drugs are safe for someone other than the person with the prescription to use.

Many prescription drugs can have powerful effects in the brain and body—and people sometimes take them in ways that can be just as dangerous (e.g., crushing pills and snorting or injecting the contents) as illicit drug abuse. In fact, opioid painkillers act on the same sites in the brain as heroin, which is one reason why they can be so dangerous when abused. Also, abusing prescription drugs is illegal—and that includes sharing prescriptions with friends.

If prescription drugs are dangerous, why are they prescribed by doctors?

Virtually every medication presents some risk of undesirable side effects, sometimes even serious ones. Doctors consider the potential benefits and risks to each patient very carefully before prescribing medications. Physicians ask about patients' medical history, including what other health problems they have, other medications they take, and if they have a history of problems with addiction or other mental illnesses.

Based on this and other information (e.g., age and weight of the patient), doctors can prescribe drugs while minimizing the risks. But when abused, some prescription drugs can be dangerous and can lead to severe health consequences, including addiction—just like illicit drugs can.



What should I do?

1. At home, remove, scratch off or black-out personal information from the containers to protect your identity.
2. Just before drop-off, remove pills from the original container, place in a clear plastic bag, and recycle the container.
3. Bring the bag and pills to the Sheriff's Department.
 - Do NOT flush pills down the toilet.
 - Do NOT pour down the drain.
 - Do NOT throw in the trash.

