

300 Free Medication Take-Back Bins – Apply Now!

Eligible Pharmacies, Hospitals, and Law Enforcement Departments are Encouraged to Apply Now for Medication Collection Bins with Paid Disposal

(Sacramento) – The [Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\)](#) and the [California Product Stewardship Council \(CPSC\)](#) are proud to announce the federal grant-funded California Statewide Drug Take-Back Program to help combat the opioid crisis and reduce the misuse of medications. This program will expand options for the public to safely discard unwanted medicines with a statewide network of take-back receptacles (bins). The program will also promote DHCS' medication mail-back envelope program.

Applications are now being accepted for free bins with paid disposal through August 2020. The bins can remain on the property of the host location beyond the duration of the grant. Pharmacies, hospitals, and law enforcement departments interested in participating in this program and receiving a free medicine collection bin may complete the application here:

[Apply today! Click here to start the application process and learn more about hosting a bin!](#)

Bins can accept both controlled and non-controlled medications for people and pets. They will be placed across California at Drug Enforcement Agency-approved locations, including California-licensed pharmacies, hospitals or clinics with onsite pharmacies, and law enforcement departments. Grant funds will cover the cost of the drug take-back bins, disposal services through August 2020, technical assistance, and promotion of the bin location throughout the duration of the project.

“Through this program, Californians all over the state will now have access to convenient, safe, and environmentally friendly options to dispose of unwanted and potentially harmful medications. By providing the public access to these bins at convenient locations, the program will help combat the statewide opioid crisis and help protect water quality. Bin hosts will be screened to ensure that the bins are placed in locations with the greatest need. The medication bins are a win for the health of our California communities and the environment,” said CPSC Executive Director Doug Kobold.

Why should pharmacies, law enforcement agencies, and healthcare facilities consider applying for a safe medicine collection bin?

- *Helps to ensure that only the person prescribed the medication uses it.* Safely disposing of medication that is no longer wanted or being used reduces risk of harm for children, pets, and seniors from consuming medications that are not intended for them. The opioid crisis has been fueled in part by people accessing unused or unwanted medications from friends and family members' homes.
- *Saves taxpayer dollars.* When medications are obtained by someone other than the intended patient, this can lead to addiction and poisonings.
- *Protects the environment.* Medications poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet can result in higher concentrations of chemicals ending up in watersheds and local water supplies, potentially affecting wildlife and people.
- *Your location will be promoted at no cost to you.* This program will raise awareness of your facility and may increase foot traffic.



***This is a picture of the bins that will be provided free-of-charge.
Photo courtesy of California Product Stewardship Council and available for use by media outlets.***

CPSC developed and administers the Drug Take-Back program to promote safe medication disposal and prevent the flushing and trashing of unwanted medications. CPSC's mission is to shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability. This project aligns with our mission by preparing locations for the producer-funded take-back program coming in 2022.

Please visit <https://www.takebackdrugs.org/>.

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