

Disposal of Pharmaceuticals

Information about the proper disposal of household pharmaceutical waste.

<http://www.cabq.gov/police/programs/pharmaceuticals>

Household Pharmaceutical Disposal Program

Medications may be properly disposed by taking them to any of our police substations [listed below](#).

Disposal Locations

Medications may also be disposed at any of the six area command substations Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Foothills Area Command
12800 Lomas NE, (505) 332-5240
- Northeast Area Command
8201 Osuna NE, (505) 823-4455
- Southeast Area Command
800 Louisiana SE, (505) 256-2050
- Valley Area Command
5408 2nd NW, (505) 761-8800
- Southwest Area Command
6404 Los Volcanes NW, (505) 831-4705
- Northwest Area Command
10401 Cibola Loop NW, (505) 768-4850

Pharmaceutical Program: Guidelines

The following information is for private homes that are **not** using a home health care agency. Home health care providers are required to dispose medical waste according to the [New Mexico Administrative Code](#).

Only pills are accepted - Doctor prescribed and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, herbal supplements, and pet medications.

Proper disposal protects [children and pets from accidental poisonings](#) as well as [teenagers and adults](#) from misusing and abusing medications.

Remove all medications from their original containers including pills in foil and place them in a sealable bag.

What's Not Accepted

- Liquids, injectables or syringes.
- Chemo or medical waste.
- Inhalers or other personal care items.
- Prescriptions on the [Environmental Protection Agency's P or U List](#).

For more information, call the Metropolitan Forensic Science Center at (505) 823-4200.

Trash Disposal

Other prescriptions should be disposed in your regular trash following the steps below:

- Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid (pill, liquid capsule, etc.), crush it and add water to dissolve it.
- Add an absorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust, coffee grounds to the plastic bag.
- Seal the plastic bag and place into the trash.
- Protect yourself by destroying all identifying information from medical containers before recycling.
- Consult your pharmacist with any questions.

Useful Links

- [Examples of P-Listed Drugs](#)
- [EPA P & U List](#)
- [Smart Disposal](#)
- [New Mexico Board of Pharmacy](#)
- [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)
- [Federal Guidelines](#)
- [Drug Digest](#)
- [Take-Back Network](#)
- [Take Back Express](#)

Proper Disposal of Household Needles, Lancets and Other Sharps

A Few Things You Should Know

- Put all household generated sharps: needles, lancets, and single razor blades into a rigid plastic container such as an empty laundry detergent or bleach bottle.
- Do NOT use glass or coffee cans.
- Clearly label the container "Contains Sharps" with a waterproof marker.
- Immediately put used syringes or lancets into the container.
- Screw on the top after each use.
- Don't clip, bend or recap the needles because you could injure yourself.
- Keep the container away from children!
- Add a few tablespoons of household bleach for added safety (optional).
- Seal it with heavy-duty tape when the container is full.
- Take to a drop-off collection site or see trash disposal steps below. For drop-off collection sites, please visit the [New Mexico Department of Public Health's Harm Reduction webpage](#).

Trash Disposal

- Put your homemade sharps container in a box.
- Clearly label the box as "Danger Sharps Inside."
- Put with regular household trash.
- Other Options
- [Mail-back Services](#)
- [Safe Community Needle Disposal](#)