

## SAFE USE

- Only take medications that have been prescribed to you by your doctor, and do not give medication to another person that was prescribed for you.
- Familiarize yourself with the medication by carefully reading the directions, including dosage requirements, frequency, times, side effects that may occur, and interactions with other drugs.
- Do not mix medications with Alcohol, Marijuana, or other substances, as it can cause serious health consequences, impaired driving, and other complications.

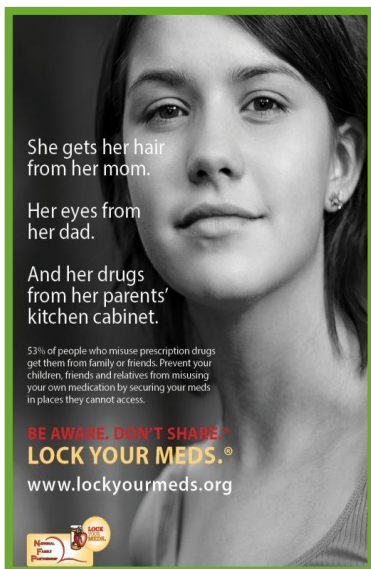


## SAFE STORAGE

- Keep all Medications in the Original Bottles or Packaging
- For all Prescriptions, Monitor/Count Pills, and Track Refills
- Use Childproof Caps or Timer Caps
- Secure all Medications and supplies such as Syringes in a Locked Cabinet

*Using original containers will help to let everyone in the home know what the medication is so it isn't mistaken for something else. Counting and monitoring pills can let you know if someone else has been using the medication inappropriately. Keeping the medication out of reach or in a locked cabinet will prevent children or those who may have dementia or other memory loss issues from access.*

## WHY SAFE STORAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUTH AND OLDER ADULTS



- An estimated 75,000 children (18 years old or younger) are seen in emergency departments each year because of unintentional medication poisonings (excluding recreational drug use). Most of these visits (over 80%) were because an unsupervised child found and consumed the medication without adult supervision.
- Older adults (65 years or older) are three times as likely as younger patients to come to emergency departments for adverse drug events (over 177,000 emergency visits each year). Older adults are seven times more likely to be hospitalized after an emergency visit, but most of these hospitalizations are due to just a few drugs known to require careful monitoring to prevent problems.

# SAFE DISPOSAL

## Community Disposal Locations for Unused Medications (Prescription Pills/Controlled Substances)

Citrus County Sheriff's Office –1 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue-Inverness, & Emergency Operations Center 3549 Saunders Way--Lecanto(Monday-Friday)—No needles, aerosols, or liquids.

Walgreens Pharmacy in 310 SE US Highway 19--Crystal River & 104 S. Apopka—Inverness (Monday-Sunday). No needles, aerosols, or liquids accepted.

CVS Pharmacy 700 West Norvell Bryant-Citrus Hills.—No needles, aerosols, or chemotherapy waste.

**Community Disposal Locations for SHARPS---**(Syringes/Needles– Florida Dept. of Health-Lecanto (Monday-Friday). Syringes and needles must be in the appropriate container.

**Special Events:** The Citrus County Sheriff's Office promotes the DEA's Annual Take-Back Days which are held twice each year. For specific dates, please check [www.sheriffcitrus.org](http://www.sheriffcitrus.org).

## DEACTIVATION PRODUCTS

If transportation to the designated locations above is not an option, there are products available to destroy medications in home. We recommend DETERRA BAGS(several bottles of pills) or DISPOSE RX(only one bottle). DETERRA BAGS are charcoal based, and work to deactivate the drugs while protecting the environment. You may find DETERRA and DISPOSE RX through online retailers.



If you cannot visit a drug take back location promptly, due time, distance, or other constraints, check to see if your medicine is on the FDA flush list(<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-flush-potentially-dangerous-medicine#FlushList>). Your next best option is to immediately flush these potentially dangerous medicine down the toilet. If your medication is not on the flush list, you should follow these instructions to discard the medicine in your trash at home.

## SAFE DISPOSAL Other Methods

### MIX

Mix tablets or capsules with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, kitty litter or unused coffee grounds.



### PLACE

Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag.



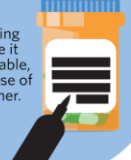
### THROW

Throw the container in your household trash.



### SCRATCH OUT

Scratch out all personal information on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle or empty medicine packaging to make it unreadable, then dispose of the container.



- (1)Mix medicines (liquid or pills; do not crush tablets or capsules) with an unappealing substance such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds;
- (2)Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;
- (3)Throw away the container in your trash at home; and
- (4)Delete all personal information on the prescription label of empty medicine bottles or medicine packaging, then trash or recycle the empty bottle or packaging.

For more information, please contact the Anti-Drug Coalition at (352) 601-6620, the Citrus County Sheriff's Office at (352) 726-4488, or the Florida Dept. of Health at (352) 527-0068. You may visit the following sites for additional information@ [www.safecitrus.com](http://www.safecitrus.com), [www.antidrugcitrus.com](http://www.antidrugcitrus.com) or [www.sheriffcitrus.org](http://www.sheriffcitrus.org).

