

Don't Forget to Check Your Shelf

Disposing of Unused or Expired Medication

Project Medicine Drop Box – Bernards Township Police Department

- 1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 – Front Lobby
- Open 7 am – 4:30 pm
- **ACCEPTED** – Unused and expired solid medications such as pills, capsules, patches, inhalers, and pet medications.
- **NOT ACCEPTED** – Illegal drugs, liquid medications, gels, lotions, sharps (needles and syringes), e-cigarettes (including nicotine cartridges and lithium batteries), and other medical waste.
- For other drop box locations, [click here](#).

***The following section goes over how to properly dispose of items that are NOT ACCEPTED in the Project Medicine Drop Box**

Liquid Medication Disposal

- **DO NOT** drop off liquid medication, gels, lotions, or other non-solid medication at the Medication Drop Box during normal business hours **OR** during DEA Takeback Day in Bernards Township.
- Medications (whether prescription or over the counter) can **cause environmental damage** if disposed of in the sewer system because they may not be completely destroyed by the sewage treatment plants and **can enter the water supply**.
- Disposing medications down the sink or toilet is **not recommended**.
- **To Dispose:**
 - Mix liquid medication with water, coffee grounds, cat litter, dirt or other undesirable material in an opaque container with a lid and dispose in the trash.
 - Wrap glass vials of injectable (liquid) medications in layers of absorbent materials like a rag or paper towel, then place in a plastic bag
 - Tie bag securely and hit with a hammer or hard surface to break the glass and dispose of the entire package in the trash.
 - Syringes containing medication should be expelled into paper towels which can be bagged and disposed of in the trash.
 - Follow directions on safe syringe disposal to discard.
 - Empty liquid medication containers can be disposed of in the household trash.

Safe Syringe and Sharps Disposal

- **DO NOT** drop off loose needles, medical sharps or syringes at the Medication Drop Box during normal business hours **OR** during DEA Takeback Day in Bernards Township.
- **DO NOT** dispose of loose needles or medical sharps in trash cans, recycling bins.
- **UNUSED** or **UNWANTED** sharps should be placed in an FDA approved disposal container which is available through a medical supply company, healthcare provider or pharmacy.
- **If an FDA container is unavailable** – use a thick plastic container like a laundry detergent jug.
 - Write “**DO NOT RECYCLE – SHARPS INSIDE**” so household members don’t mistake it for trash.
 - **Seal tightly** with something like duct tape and **disguise it** in a bag or wrapping to discourage anyone from going through your trash for sharps.
 - **Discard in trash.**
- **DO** immediately place used needles and other sharps in a sharps disposal container or labeled sturdy container to reduce the risk of needle sticks, cuts, or punctures from loose sharps.
- **DO** keep all sharps and sharps disposal containers out of reach of children and pets.
- **DO** ask your medical provider whether they cover sharps disposal containers.
- **DON’T** flush needles or sharps down the toilet.
- **DON’T** put needles and other sharps in your recycling bin – they are not recyclable.
- **DON’T** try to remove, bend, break or recap needles used by someone else.
- **DON’T** attempt to remove the needle without a needle clipper.
 - [Safe Needle Disposal](#)
 - [Safe Syringe Disposal Guide for Home Generated Medical Waste](#)
 - [Dos and Don’ts of Proper Sharps Disposal](#)
 - [RWJ Somerset Safe Syringe Disposal](#)
 - [Morris County Home Medical Waste Disposal](#)

E-Cigarette Disposal

- **DO NOT drop off e-cigarettes, cartridges, or lithium batteries at the Medication Drop Box during normal business hours OR during DEA Takeback Day in Bernards Township.**
 - Contact your local drop box location for more information.
- **DO NOT** put e-cigarettes in your household trash or recycling
 - **The lithium batteries can become damaged and cause fires.**
 - **Nicotine is toxic and poses a risk to both workers and the environment.**
- **DO** take e-cigarettes to your household hazardous waste collection site
 - Many towns and counties have collection programs for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections near you or contact your local solid waste agency.
 - HHW collections are typically free for residents.
 - E-cigarettes, their nicotine cartridges, and batteries will be managed safely and prevent fires and releases of harmful chemicals into the environment.
 - [Somerset County Household Hazardous Waste](#)
 - [Morris County Household Hazardous Waste](#)
- [EPA – How to Safely Dispose of E-Cigarettes](#)

Other Links

[DEA Takeback Day Information](#)

[FDA – Where and How to Dispose of Unused Medicines](#)

[EPA – What to Do with Unwanted Household Medicines](#)

[NJ Division of Consumer Affairs – Med Drop](#)

[Somerset County – Project Medicine Drop](#)

[Morris County – Prescription Drug Drop Box Program](#)

[Bernards Township Health Department](#)

- [Bernards Township Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse](#)