



Once again, DEA will combine efforts with state and local law enforcement agencies to provide an opportunity for the public to safely dispose of potentially dangerous controlled substances and other pharmaceuticals.

Collection Day Protocol

- The National Take Back Initiative will be held on Saturday, *April 25, 2026*, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Boxes and liners provided by DEA must be used for collecting the substances.
- This program is anonymous and all efforts should be made to protect the anonymity of individuals disposing of medications. No questions should be asked nor requests for identification be made.
- No effort should be made by law enforcement personnel to count, inventory, or log medications. Law enforcement personnel should not handle the medications at any time.
- Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into the disposal box. If an original container is submitted, the individual should be encouraged to remove any identifying information from the prescription label.
- ✘ • All solid dosage pharmaceutical product and liquids in consumer containers may be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. The depositor should ensure the cap is tightly sealed to prevent leakage.
- ✘ • Intra-venous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens.
- Illicit substances are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in collection containers. If an individual attempts to surrender an illicit controlled substance, law enforcement personnel should handle in accordance with department policy.
- A law enforcement officer must remain with the drug disposal box at all times. At the conclusion of the event, the law enforcement agency must take custody of the material and turn it in to DEA personnel for disposal, at a pre-arranged location.

E-Cigarette & Vaping devices Disposal



DEA National Take Back Day Vape Collection Guidance:

- DEA will collect vape pens or other e-cigarette devices from individual consumers **only** after the batteries are removed from the devices. It is important to stress that the DEA is not responsible for removing the batteries from the devices.
- If the battery cannot be removed, individual consumers can check with large electronic chain stores who may accept the vape pen or e-cigarette devices for proper disposal.
- Individual consumers may also contact their local Hazardous Materials Management Facility to determine if they accept these devices, and for additional guidance regarding proper disposal.