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# Rx DISPOSAL TOOLKIT

FOR PHARMACISTS

A “How-To” Guide for Pharmacies to Become Collection Sites for Unused and Unwanted Prescription Medication

The Oregon Coalition for Responsible Use of Meds (OrCRM) is a service of Lines for Life.



Learn more about our programs by visiting:  
[www.linesforlife.org](http://www.linesforlife.org)



# Introduction

Why should pharmacies become collectors of unused medications?

According to the Oregon Health Authority:

**Oregon has one of the highest rates of prescription opioid misuse in the nation.**

In Oregon, more drug poisoning deaths involve prescription opioids than any other type of drug, including alcohol, methamphetamines, heroin and cocaine. An average of 3 Oregonians die every week from prescription opioid overdose, and many more develop opioid use disorder.

Pharmacists play an important role in patient health, from advising patients on medications to blood pressure screenings and flu shots. According to a 2016 survey of LA county residents, 87% of respondents said they thought drop bins for medicines and sharps in pharmacies were a good idea.

- ▶ **Become committed to being part of the solution to this problem. It's the right thing to do for customers and patients.**

Help protect the health of customers and patients from unused drugs by installing a drug disposal receptacle in your pharmacy. Customers and the community will thank you.



# Estimated Costs Based on Industry Standard

## COSTS INCLUDE:

- purchase or lease of receptacle
- liners
- shipping
- disposal

Costs vary by amount collected, frequency of disposal, and type of contract.

Costs range from \$800-\$2000 annually

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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 971.244.1384

## DISPOSAL COMPANIES

**Sharps Medsafe**  
 MATTHEW BATTLES, JR.  
[mbattles@sharpsinc.com](mailto:mbattles@sharpsinc.com)  
 713.353.1160

**Assured Waste Solutions**  
 DOUG BOWMAN  
[dbowman@assuredwaste.com](mailto:dbowman@assuredwaste.com)  
 704.884.0008

# Step-by-Step Plan

## STEP 1

- ✓ Modify DEA registration to become authorized collector and list locations of collection receptacles
- ✓ Pharmacies can apply online or by letter. The form can be found at: [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov)



## 2

- ✓ Choose disposal service and order receptacle.
- ✓ Collection receptacle is securely fastened to a permanent structure so it can't be removed.
- ✓ Receptacle must be within view of pharmacy employee.

## 3

- ✓ Two pharmacy employees\* install the inner liner and both sign the step log.
- ✓ The inner liner must meet DEA specifications. Most disposal companies offer DEA liners as part of their disposal service.



## 4

- ✓ The pharmacy can direct customers to the collection receptacle and discuss medication usage.
- BUT**
- ✓ Employees cannot handle or place the customer's medication in the receptacle.



## 5

- ✓ Only Schedule II-V controlled and non-controlled substances are accepted.
- ✓ No Schedule I drugs accepted.
- ✓ Do not place pharmacy inventory drugs in the receptacle.
- ✓ Drop Door must be locked when employee isn't present.

## 6

- ✓ Once placed in the collection receptacle, drugs are not to be counted, sorted, or handled in any way.



- ✓ Employees monitor the receptacle and call for pickup when liner is almost full.

## 7

- ✓ Once receptacle liner is full, two pharmacy employees remove, seal, and package the liner immediately upon removal without emptying or touch the contents.
- ✓ Both employees sign a log.
- ✓ Liner may be stored by two employees in a securely locked, substantially constructed cabinet or securely locked room with restricted access. If no such space is available, call collector before container is full and remove liner as above when collector arrives.

## 8

- ✓ Two authorized employees provide packaged inner liner to carrier.
- ✓ Inner liner is preaddressed to disposal facility.
- ✓ Both Employees sign log upon delivery to carrier.

\* The DEA specifies "authorized collectors many not employ, as an agent or employee who has access to or influence over collected substances, any person who has been convicted of a felony offense related to controlled substances or who has, at any time, had an application for registration with DEA denied, had a DEA registration revoked or suspended, or surrendered a DEA registration for cause."