

Check your shelf!

Leftover, unused, or old medication is dangerous to keep in your home. It is important to know how to properly dispose of it.

WHY SAFELY DISPOSE OF OLD MEDICATIONS?

Keeping old medications in your home can put you or your family at risk of:

- ◆ **Poisoning.** Children and pets may get into medicine and become sick or die
- ◆ **Having medicine stolen.** People who have access to your house may go through medicine cabinets and take drugs without your permission. Painkillers can be illegally sold or given away so others can get high.
- ◆ **Taking medicine after its end date.** All drugs have expiration dates. Many medications don't work as well after this date. Some can degrade in quality and make you sick. Do not risk-taking medicine after the end date.
- ◆ **Using medicine unwisely.** Although it may be tempting to use old medicines when you feel sick instead of going to the doctor, this is very risky. Self-medicating with your own old medicine may lead to delayed treatment of a serious medical problem. The medicine may be past the end date or you may have unexpected reactions because of new medicines you're taking. Talk to your doctor who can check history and symptoms, and write a new prescription that is appropriate for your current illness.

HOW DO I SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS?

- ◆ Do NOT throw drugs in the trash, flush them down the toilet, or pour them down the drain. This can pollute the water.
- ◆ Ask your pharmacist if they accept old medications, or have information about drop boxes or Community Drug Take-Back Events.
- ◆ Check with your local police department or sheriff's office. Many law enforcement agencies in Arizona have permanent prescription drug drop boxes.
- ◆ See reverse side of this flyer for drop locations.
 - Look on-line for prescription drug drop box locations: www.dumpthedrugs.org

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP BOXES GENERALLY ACCEPT:

- ◆ Unused, unwanted, or expired medications – Leave medicine in container and black out any personal information
- ◆ Pet medication
- ◆ Medicine samples
- ◆ Over-the-counter medication

**Why is it
important to
properly dispose
of medication?**

**Protects our
ground water**

**Prevents
childhood
poisonings**

**Reduces
substance abuse**

To see list of nearby drug drop boxes where medications can be safely disposed, see reverse side. Please contact (928)679-7279 or jgencarelle@coconino.az.gov with updates.