

DuPage County launches collection program for Expired or Unused Medications

The DuPage County Government, and the DuPage County Health Department in conjunction with several Police Departments countywide has provided an **Expired / Unused Medication Disposal Program**. Funding for this program is from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Expired or unused medications are a risk to families, the community and the environment. Bloomingdale Township residents are now able to dispose of expired or unused medications by dropping them off in a permanent drop box at the: Bloomingdale Police Department, 201 S. Bloomingdale Road in Bloomingdale, Carol Stream Police Department, 500 N. Gary Avenue, in Carol Stream and the Glendale Heights Police Department, 300 Civic Center Plaza, in Glendale Heights.

Citizens may not be aware that improperly disposing of prescription or over-the-counter drugs, such as dumping them down a drain or flushing them down a toilet, may contribute to environmental concerns about our water supplies or waterways.

The RxBOX program also helps to reduce safety concerns that may occur with accidental ingestion of medication by children in a household and is one way to help address the growing issue of prescription drug abuse. The RxBOX drop box is available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is no charge to drop off your medications. The medications will be periodically removed from the secured drop box and transported to the Illinois EPA for safe incineration.

Items Accepted: Prescription Medications; Over-the-Counter Medications; Medicated Ointments; Medicated Shampoos; Liquids Containing Medications; Prescription Inhalers; Over-the-Counter Inhalers; Glass Thermometers containing mercury.

Items Not Accepted: Sharps or needles; Radioactive medicines; Any other medical waste; Household chemical waste – these items need to be disposed of using other methods. For sharps or needle disposal, please check with your physician or local hospital.

Note: Medications can be brought in their original containers or, for a spill-free disposal, place the pills or liquid medication bottles in a zipper top plastic bag. Please cross off or remove any personal information on the label to reduce concerns about personal identification information (reduce Identity Theft issues).

If you have questions about this program, please contact the Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, or Glendale Heights Police Department or the DuPage County Health Department.