

## Pharmaceutical Medication Drop Box

The goal of the medication drop box program is to keep unused/unwanted medications out of our water supply as well as out of the hands of individuals who might abuse them. Bring your unused/unwanted medications to one of these safe and secure drop box locations:

### Stearns County

**Law Enforcement Center**  
807 Courthouse Square  
St. Cloud, MN 56303  
Monday - Friday  
8:00AM - 4:30PM

### Albany

**Police Department**  
400 Railroad Avenue  
Albany, MN 56307  
Monday - Friday  
8:00AM - 4:30PM

### Avon

**Police Department**  
140 Stratford Street E  
Avon, MN 56310  
Monday - Friday  
8:00AM - 3:30PM

### Belgrade *(coming soon)*

**Police Department**  
120 Washburn Avenue  
Belgrade, MN 56312  
Regular Business Hours

### Cold Spring

**Police Department**  
27 Red River Avenue S  
Cold Spring, MN 56320  
Mon - Fri 7:30AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday 10:00AM - 1:00PM

### Kimball

**Police Department**  
1 N Main Street  
Kimball, MN 55353  
Regular Business Hours

### Melrose

**Police Department**  
225 1st Street NE  
Melrose, MN 56352  
Monday - Friday  
8:00AM - 4:30PM

### Paynesville

**Police Department**  
221 Washburne Avenue  
Paynesville, MN 56362  
Monday - Friday  
8:30AM - 4:30PM

### Sartell

**Police Department**  
310 2nd Street S  
Sartell, MN 56377  
Monday - Friday  
7:30AM - 6:00PM

### Sauk Centre

**Police Department**  
320 Oak Street S  
Sauk Centre, MN 56378  
Monday - Friday  
8:00AM - 4:30PM

### St. Joseph

**Police Department**  
25 College Avenue N  
St Joseph, MN 56374  
Regular Business Hours

### Waite Park

**Police Department**  
19 13th Avenue N  
Waite Park MN 56387  
Monday - Friday  
7:30AM - 4:30PM



## What can I drop in the box?

- All unused and unwanted medications are accepted, but;
- **NO SHARPS!** For Sharps disposal information, [visit the HHW page](#).

## Any special procedures?

- If medications are in a glass container, put them in a padded envelope provided at the drop box before depositing.
- You do **not** need to remove any identifying labels from the bottles. Privacy is of highest importance and the labels are never viewed.
- For large quantities, please call (320) 259-3700 to arrange disposal.
- This program is for **household use, not commercial**. Businesses should contact their waste management vendor for medication disposal information.

## What happens to the medications?

It's a very simple process after you make the drop:

1. each day officers package the dropped medications
2. the packages are locked away in secure storage
3. as quantities grow the packages are boxed, weighed and incinerated

## Why use the drop box?

This process incinerates the medications rather than having them flushed or end up in landfills, both of which end up in the water supply. Disposing of medications also keeps them out of the hands of people who may abuse these drugs.

Over the last few years this program has incinerated thousands of pounds of unused/unwanted medications in Stearns County:

- 2011 - 1,513 pounds (6 months)
- 2012 - 2,334 pounds
- 2013 - 4,280 pounds
- 2014 - 4,005 pounds
- 2015 - 4,451 pounds (as of 11/24)

## Who provides the drop boxes?

This program is an effort of law enforcement and environmental agencies nationwide. Locally the program is provided by the Sheriff's Office and Environmental Services department and funded through a Household Hazardous Waste tax. The boxes are built by local company American Security Cabinets.

Dan Pearson and the [Justin Pearson Foundation](#) have been very instrumental in promoting this project and we are grateful for their continued support. In 2015 the Justin Pearson Foundation hosted a golf tournament to raise funds to provide medication disposal boxes for every police agency in the tri-county area that requested one. Enough funds were raised to purchase these requested boxes.

