



City of
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News from: Oakland Police Department



For Immediate Release

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Oakland Police Department Taking Back Unwanted Prescription Drugs on Saturday, September 26, 2015

Oakland, CA — On September 26, 2015 from 10 AM to 2 PM, the Oakland Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public an opportunity to rid their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Officer Jon Low will be facilitating the program at OPD.

The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

What: Expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs (pills and patches only; the DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps).

Where: Oakland Police Department PAB lobby
455 – 7th Street

When: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Saturday, September 26

There will be six boxes in the PAB lobby from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Take Back Day. You may dispose of your prescription drugs in any one of these boxes.

Last September, Americans turned in 309 tons (over 617,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at nearly 5,500 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,000 of its state and local law enforcement partners. When those results are combined with what was collected in its eight previous Take Back events, the DEA and its partners have taken in over 4.8 million pounds—more than 2,400 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Leftover and unused medication can be highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the September 26 Take Back Day event, go to the [DEA Office of Diversion Control site](#).

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