

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T KEEP UNUSED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



POISONING RISKS

Children or pets may be accidentally poisoned by swallowing medicine.



AVAILABILITY



More than **50% of people** who misuse opioid pain relievers **obtain them from family or friends without permission**



MEDICATION SHELF-LIFE

Some **medications degrade over time** and some can become ineffective or even harmful.



DANGERS OF SELF-MEDICATING

Using someone else's medicine or your own unused medicine **may hide symptoms and possibly delay treatment** of a serious medical problem.



SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Prescription drugs and over-the-counter **medications accounted for 94% of emergency room visits** related to suicide attempts in 2009.



DON'T FLUSH

These drugs enter our streams, rivers and lakes harming wildlife and the environment.

SAFELY DISPOSE OF YOUR LEFTOVER DRUGS



Take back programs and events allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for **proper disposal**. Visit your local **Police department or Pharmacy** to **drop off your unused medications today**.

POLICE

PHARMACY

Safely Dispose Meds

If your community does not offer a drug take back program, you can Visit **NSC.ORG/DISPOSALRESOURCES** to learn how to safely dispose of unused medications.

