



Safe Use • Safe Storage • Safe Disposal

Rice County **MEDICATION** Safety Program

www.ricecountyhc.com • 507-664-3524 • 507-332-5911

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Take It To The Box?

The **Take It To The BOX** program promotes the safe use, safe storage and, in particular, safe disposal of unneeded medication.

The Rice County community is serious about preventing medication misuse/abuse and about environmentally safe disposal of unneeded medication. Safe medication disposal helps reduce such risks.

How should I get my medicine ready to drop off in The Box?

Medicine should be left in their original container with the label. If the medicine is a prescription, use a marker to cross off your name. Leave all other information on the container.

What kinds of medicine can go into The Box?

Any prescription and over-the-counter medicine for both humans and animals can be placed in **The Box**.

What about syringes, needles or “sharps”?

No! These items should NOT go in **The Box**.

Talk to your pharmacist about syringe disposal options and products that are available.

The Rice County Landfill also has suggestions for syringe disposal. Contact them at:

Rice County Landfill

<http://www.co.rice.mn.us/waste/index.php>
507-332-6833; 507-645-9576;
507-744-5185

Household chemicals like glues, paints and other inhalants can be used to get high. Can these chemicals go in The Box?

No. You are encouraged to store these kinds of chemicals in a safe, out-of-reach location. Unneeded household chemicals can be taken to the Rice County Landfill. For information, use contact information from above.

Can “inhalers” be put in The Box?

Yes. Inhalers used with various medicines can be dropped in **The Box** for disposal.

Can illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia, such as pipes and other objects, be put in The Box?

Yes. For privacy, items can be put in a paper bag or other container before dropping them into the disposal box. The opening of **The Box** is about 3 inches by 10 inches and is designed so that once something is dropped in, it can only be taken out by a designated police officer.

What do I do with medicine that has expired?

Expired medicines for people or animals are accepted in **The Box**. Just follow the directions from above.

I know someone who has a large amount of unneeded medication but is unable to bring it in for disposal. Can I drop off someone else’s unneeded medication?

Yes. If needed, friends or family members may bring medication to **The Box** for someone else.

Can unused medicine be donated for others to use?

No. In Minnesota at this time there is no legal or safe way to donate unopened and/or unneeded medication.

Health Finders (507-330-4031) is a local organization that will accept some unneeded health-related equipment and supplies- but not medication. Call for information.

What happens to the medicine dropped into The Box?

The Box is emptied daily. Contents are stored in a secured location. Periodically, a police officer and a chemist from qualified disposal company will sort the medication. Medicines will then be taken to a licensed site to be incinerated at extremely high temperatures.

Who pays for the medication disposal?

Take It To the Box is a very cost effective program. Funding has come from: local law enforcement agencies; Rice County Chemical Health Coalition; Northfield Mayor’s Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use; and the 2009 Minnesota Rural Flex Grant awarded to the Northfield Hospital.

There is **no charge** to individuals when medications are dropped off at **Take It To The Box** locations.