



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Pharmaceutical drop boxes added in St. Louis County

It's becoming an increasing problem: what to do with unused prescription medications. Improper disposal, such as pouring down the drain, has been linked to adverse effects on fish and wildlife. Meanwhile, leaving unused medication in a cabinet can lead to accidental poisonings of children and pets, or can contribute to prescription drug abuse.

St. Louis County Environmental Services now offers seven "Take it to the Box" medicine disposal locations. Medications – both prescription and non-prescription – in any form from households can be dropped off anonymously. This includes pills and capsules, blister packs, creams and gels, inhalers, IV bags, liquids, patches, powders, sprays and vials. Unacceptable items include needles, syringes, lancets and thermometers, as well as medications from businesses.

Medications may be kept in their original container. The customer's name may be crossed off if desired, but is not necessary. The medications are transported to a facility in Fosston, Minnesota, where they are incinerated.

The seven drop off locations are:

Virginia Sheriff's Department
300 South 5th Ave, Virginia

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hibbing Sheriff's Department
1810 12th Ave East, Hibbing

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Babbitt Police Department
71 South Drive, Babbitt
Available 24 hours

Gilbert Police Department/City Hall
16 Broadway St South, Gilbert
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Eveleth Police Department
415 Pierce Street, Eveleth
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ely City Hall
209 East Chapman Street, Ely
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Floodwood City Hall
111 8th Ave West, Floodwood
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Note that additional Take it to the Box locations are available at the Duluth/St. Louis County Public Safety Building, Hermantown Police Department and Proctor Police Department. These locations are coordinated by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD).

For more information about proper disposal of medicine in St. Louis County, call (218) 749-9703 or visit www.stlouiscountymn.gov/hw. For information about proper disposal of medicine within the WLSSD, call (218) 722-0761 or visit www.wlssd.com.

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