



# CITY OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

**PULLMAN** – October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 is the 12th Annual National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) sponsors this event to encourage safe and proper disposal of unwanted or expired medications.

Last April, Americans turned in 447 tons (over 893,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at nearly 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 11 previous Take Back events, the DEA and its partners have taken in over 6.4 million pounds - about 3,200 tons - of pills.

The Pullman Police Department lobby has a prescription drug drop box available 24 hours a day, every day. By using the prescription drug drop box, your discarded drugs will be incinerated at a facility approved by the EPA and Washington Department of Ecology. We will accept all prescription medication from individuals only; medical offices and care facilities should follow protocol with their contracted disposal vendors. Since the drug drop box was implemented in 2010, the Pullman Police Department has collected and disposed of over 1,500 pounds of prescription drugs. Collection sites in every local community can be found by going to [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov).

When transporting prescription drugs, state law requires that they be in the original prescription containers with the labels attached. It is illegal to possess prescription drugs outside of the original container or to possess prescription drugs that are prescribed to someone else. The prescription labeling can be removed at the Police Department or the drugs can be placed in plastic zipper bags that are provided by the Police Department. If placed in a bag, the name of the drug should be written on the bag.

Medicines that languish in home cabinets are 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 resulting from 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.

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