



# CITY OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2018  
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### National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

**PULLMAN** – Saturday, October 27, 2018 is the 16<sup>th</sup> National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) sponsors this event to provide Americans with an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Pullman Police Department. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last spring Americans turned in nearly 475 tons (949,046 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and almost 4,700 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 15 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in almost 10 million pounds - nearly 5,000 tons - of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. 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 due to these drugs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen 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.

Since 2010, Pullman has been providing members of the public with access to a prescription drug collection box, available 24/7 in the Police Department lobby.

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. 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. Collection sites in every local community can be found by going to [takebackday.dea.gov](http://takebackday.dea.gov).

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