



# Northwest Product Stewardship Council The Secure Drug Take-Back Program

## Background

The Secure Drug Take-Back Program (**HB 1047**) was signed into law on March 22, 2018. This program requires drug manufacturers to implement a statewide program for residents to mail or drop off unused, expired, and leftover over-the-counter or prescription medications to be safely disposed.

## When does the program start?

Program implementation may begin as early as mid-2020, once acceptable proposals are submitted. Drug manufacturers whose medicines are sold in or into Washington State must submit a program proposal to the Washington Department of Health (DOH) by July 1, 2019. Proposals must explain how they will provide a take-back program meeting the law's requirements. Manufacturers are required to contact pharmacies, hospitals, law enforcement, and other potential medicine collectors about hosting a secure drug drop box.

Once the program launches, all Washington counties can expect at least one secure medicine drop-off site or periodic collection events. Larger population centers of 50,000 or more may have additional drop-off locations as well. Additionally, all communities will have the option to mail unused drugs through a mail-back program.

## How is the program funded?

Under the new law, pharmaceutical manufacturers are required to finance the program. The annual cost is estimated to be about 0.1% of the \$5.7 billion in sales that pharmaceutical companies make per year in Washington. This equates to approximately 1 penny for every \$10 in pharmaceutical sales.



**The Secure Drug Take-back Program costs about 1 cent for every 10 dollars in pharmaceutical sales.**

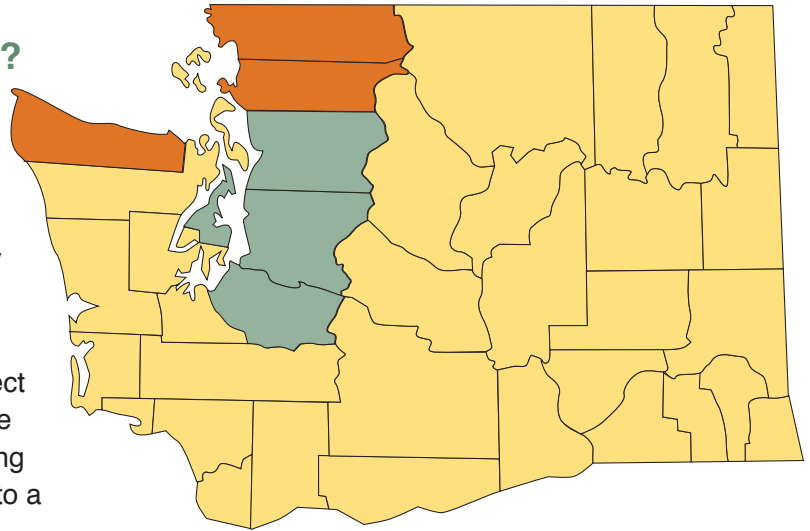




## What do I do with my unwanted meds until the program launches?

Local Secure Medicine Return programs are currently active in: King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. Clallam, Whatcom, and Skagit counties are projected to begin Secure Medicine Return programs by late 2018 to early 2019. All of these programs are paid for by manufacturers.




The existing county programs will remain in effect until one year after the manufacturers' statewide drug take-back program is launched and providing services. The local programs will then merge into a consistent statewide drug take-back system.



**Remember:**  
**Never flush  
unwanted  
medication  
down the toilet!**



If you have unused, expired or leftover medications that you would like to safely dispose of, you can find a take-back location near you at [takebackyourmeds.org](http://takebackyourmeds.org).

-  Active County programs
-  County program beginning late 2018/early 2019
-  Statewide program coming

### To learn more

If you would like to learn more about the new statewide drug return program, please visit: [doh.wa.gov/DrugTakeBack](http://doh.wa.gov/DrugTakeBack)




## Northwest Product Stewardship Council

### Who is the NWPSC?

The NWPSC is an unincorporated association of government organizations in Washington and Oregon that is comprised of a Steering Committee, Associates and Subcommittees. The NWPSC works with public and private sector entities to develop policy approaches to safely manage products that are toxic, hazardous or difficult to manage at the end of life. The NWPSC develops policy, analyzes legislative proposals and tracks legislation, but is not a lobbying organization.

### Join us!

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