Prescription drugs are the fourth leading cause of death in the United States. One easy way to find them is the home medicine cabinet. Medicine cabinets are often filled with Vicodin or Valium tablets from various dental visits, surgeries or bad-back episodes.

Drug Counselors and addiction specialists tell stories about home repair people, real-estate open houses or family members taking a few pills from each bottle. In their own homes, teens might take pills to sell, give to friends or take themselves—often not realizing that mixing drugs or taking them with alcohol can have deadly results.
THE D.M.P.D. PROGRAM

As dangerous as left over drugs can be in the wrong hands, there is often no good way to dispose of them.

Most disposal options pose their own safety or health risks. Discarding drugs into the toilet, for example, poisons water and fish. The garbage cannot be a secure disposal and if it were, landfill run off drains into our waterways. Pharmacies that have collection programs will not take controlled substances such as painkillers or muscle relaxants, due to Federal regulations.

Scientists with the United States Geological Society conducted a study of over 130 river and streams and found pharmaceuticals in 80% of those tested.

The Des Moines Police Department's Disposal of Medications and Prescription Drugs (DMPD) program offers an environmentally safe alternative for getting rid of unwanted medications. The unwanted drugs will be burned in an incinerator where it won't be absorbed into our rivers, streams and other waterways.

How does it work?

1. Call the NARC office (237-1565) to assure an officer is present for drop off. (Monday thru Friday 8AM to 4PM)

2. The individual will remain anonymous and no questions asked.

3. Participant may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and placing it directly into disposal box. If an original container is submitted, we encourage the individual to remove any identifying information from the prescription label.

WHAT CAN BE PUT IN THE TAKE AWAY SYSTEM?

Acceptable:

- Prescription Medications to include Controlled Substances
- Pills, tablets, capsules (All over the counter medications)
- Ointments/Creams/Lotions
- Powders
- Inhalers, nebulizer solutions
- Liquid Medications in leak proof containers
- Vitamins & Supplements
- Pet medications

NOT Acceptable:

- Sharp Objects
- Syringes with needles
- Thermometers
- Bloody or infectious waste
- Aerosol cans
- Hydrogen Peroxide or Rubbing Alcohol

What is a "Controlled Substance"?

- A drug or chemical substance whose possession and use are controlled by law.
- Drugs controlled by prescription requirement because of the danger of addiction or abuse.
- Any substance included in the five classification schedules of the (US) Controlled Substance Act of 1970.

Five scheduled classes of drugs are:

1. Narcotics
2. Depressants
3. Stimulants
4. Hallucinogens
5. Anabolic steroids