

There is no comparison – MedSafe® and TakeAway Envelopes remain the best disposal solutions for ultimate-user medications.

MedSafe® and TakeAway Envelopes



Proper Destruction

We employ disposal by incineration, the Best Demonstrated Available Technology (BDAT, "CMBST", 40 CFR 268.42), for the complete destruction of medications.



Environmental Impact

DEA, EPA, and even states recommend incineration as the preferred method for disposal of ultimate-user medications. The extreme temperatures of high-heat incineration ensure the breakdown of the molecular structure of the drug. The resultant by-products are carbon dioxide and water, and any inorganic residue is stabilized. This limits any environmental damage that untreated pharmaceuticals pose to the earth and our water supply.



Economic Considerations

Price-per-pound, TakeAway and MedSafe solutions are more cost-effective than chemical solutions and chemical trash disposal products.



Program Success

TakeAway and MedSafe solutions provide tracking and measurement of program effectiveness.



Regulatory Compliance

TakeAway and MedSafe are mailback and receptacle takeback programs which are the methods included in the EPA and DEA regulations for ultimate-user medication collection and disposal. In addition, Sharps Compliance complies with DOT regulations as authorized by Special Permit # DOT-SP 20284.

Chemical Trash Disposal Products



Proper Destruction

Complete chemical degradation is not certain with any pouches, bottles, or powders. Available test results from manufacturers do not demonstrate apparent molecular change as with incineration. Therefore, the DEA non-retrievable standard is not met since the controlled substance could remain. The manufacturer of one product states that their mixture can be eaten. Given that the controlled drug's chemical components are not removed, this could be a true danger if ingested.



Environmental Impact

Chemical solutions resulting from the pouch/bottle dispersion are not EPA or DEA recommended disposal solutions. Placing the resultant pouch into the trash leads to landfill leakage with potential to leach into soil and water impacting the cycle of life. The claims of "biodegradable" are null when considering the plastic packaging, including medication vials, which do not break down but remain in the landfill indefinitely. Lastly, the long-term effects of polymers and other chemicals used in these products are unknown.



Economic Considerations

Intended for low volume use, these products carry a high price-per-pound disposal cost.



Program Success

Chemical trash disposal products provide no means by which to track the use or effectiveness of the product or return on investment.



Regulatory Compliance

No federal agency reviews, evaluates, endorses, or certifies any medicine disposal products. Furthermore, the chemical trash disposal products are not included in the DEA disposal regulations. The non-retrievable standard is not achieved if even a small percentage of the controlled substance can be recovered. In one instance, the solution is considered non-toxic allowing consumption of the complete compound, including the controlled substance.

medsafe[®]
Safe Collection Proper Destruction

takeaway[™]
MEDICATION RECOVERY SYSTEM

References:

Recommendation on the Disposal of Household Pharmaceuticals Collected by Take-Back Events, Mail-Back, and Other Collection Programs
The Need to Incinerate Discarded Pharmaceuticals
Overview of Eight Medicine Disposal Products