



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Updated News Release

New Operation Medicine Cabinet Kiosks Installed

Santa Barbara - The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce that new and improved Operation Medicine Cabinet (OMC) drop-boxes have been installed at eight Sheriff's stations located throughout Santa Barbara County. The purpose-built drug collection kiosks are designed to safely accept unneeded and expired medication that is properly packaged for disposal.

Medications that are deposited in OMC kiosks should be kept in their original packaging if possible. Any loose pills or powders must be sealed within a Ziploc bag prior to being deposited in an OMC kiosk. Absolutely no sharps (for example, needles or anything that can poke or cut someone) of any sort should be placed in the drop-boxes. If inappropriate materials are placed within the kiosks, it will jeopardize the safety of Sheriff's personnel and can ultimately impact our ability to continue providing this important community program that allows community members to safely dispose of medication.

Expired and unused medications pose many risks. Teenagers and young adults can abuse medications they find. Young children and pets can accidentally ingest medications found around the home, leading to potential poisoning. Seniors can mistakenly mix incompatible medications or take expired drugs that may be harmful to them.

Medication that is flushed down the toilet or thrown in the trash can be harmful to the environment. Wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to handle material often found in medications therefore they pass untreated into our water system. Medications thrown in the trash can be picked up by individuals and pets when sent to the landfill and can potentially enter the environment.

The following items can be accepted: over-the-counter medications, prescription medications, medication samples, medications for household pets, medicated lotions or ointments, liquid medication only if in leak-proof container.

The following items can't be accepted: needles, hazardous waste and medical waste.

The Operation Medicine Cabinet drop-boxes are open 24-hours a day. We encourage you to find the location nearest you.

Carpinteria: 5775 Carpinteria Avenue

Santa Barbara: 4434 Calle Real

Goleta: 7042 Market Place Drive

Isla Vista: 6504 Trigo Road

Lompoc: 3500 Harris Grade

Buellton: 140 W. Highway 246

Solvang: 1745 Mission Drive

Santa Maria: 812-A West Foster Road

The Sheriff's Office began participating in Operation Medicine Cabinet in 2010 and since that time has collected more than 30,000 pounds of medications.

For more information on Operation Medicine Cabinet visit our website at www.sbsheriff.org.

**OPERATION
MEDICINE CABINET**

PLACE PRESCRIPTIONS HERE

ACCEPTED

Prescriptions • Prescription Ointments
Pet Medications • Prescription Patches
Over-the-Counter Medications • Vitamins

NOT ACCEPTED

Needles • Inhalers • Alcohol Cans
Hydrogen Peroxide • Thermometers
Ointments • Lotions or Liquids

NO NEEDLES
NO MAIL
NO BATTERIES
NO TRASH
NO LOST/FOUND ITEMS

NO JERINGAS
NO CORREG
NO BARRILES
NO RESOR
NO COSAS ENCONTADAS

NO PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL WASTE

**PRESCRIPTION
Rx
DRUG DROP**

Most Operation Medicine Cabinet Kiosks Temporarily Closed

Santa Barbara - In an effort to improve our ability to safely manage the Operation Medicine Cabinet program, the Sheriff's Office has temporarily removed the majority of its prescription drug collection kiosks from Sheriff's Office facilities. We are in the process of obtaining new, purpose-built prescription drug collection kiosks that will enhance usability to the public, and improve the ability of our personnel to safely operate the program. We anticipate that the new kiosks will be installed and operational within the next few weeks.

In order to assist in maintaining some capacity for community members needing to dispose of unwanted medications during the kiosk replacement process, we will continue to maintain one Operation Medicine Cabinet kiosk at our Sheriff's Headquarters facility, located at 4434 Calle Real, in Santa Barbara. The Headquarters kiosk is the most frequently utilized Operation Medicine Cabinet kiosk.

Operation Medicine Cabinet is a joint partnership between the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and Santa Barbara County Public Works - Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division. Operation Medicine Cabinet provides community members with a readily available and lawful mechanism for disposing of expired or unneeded prescription medications or illicit drugs. The Santa Barbara County Operation Medicine Cabinet program has been in operation for approximately five years. During this time, more than 30,000 pounds of unwanted prescription medications and illicit drugs have been collected and destroyed. Removing these drugs from medicine cabinets across the county has prevented accidental ingestion, misuse, overdose, and has kept drugs from being introduced into our water supplies.

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