

# SAFE MEDICATION STORAGE & DISPOSAL

## Overdose Prevention in South Dakota

Medications left out in the open are easy targets for misuse. Whether it's a curious child, a teen looking to experiment or even someone visiting your home, unsecured medication can quickly become dangerous. It is important to safely store your medications in your home to prevent misuse or unintentional overdose.

When it comes to medications, what you don't use is just as important as what you do. Expired, unused or unwanted medications pose a real risk if they're not disposed of properly. Safely storing and disposing of your medications are important steps you can take to help maintain a safe environment in your home.

### SAFE STORAGE & DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

- **Use a Lock Box:** The best way to keep your prescription and over-the-counter medications safe is by using a lock box. It's secure, easy to use and ensures that only you or someone you trust can access your medication.
- **Store Medications Out of Sight:** Keep your lock box in a location that's out of sight and out of reach of children, teens and visitors. A high shelf in a cool, dry place works well.
- **Track Your Medications:** Keep an eye on how many pills or doses you have left. If something goes missing, you'll know right away.
- **Educate Your Family:** Talk to your family about the dangers of misusing medications. Make sure everyone knows the importance of keeping medications secure and not sharing them with others.
- **Dispose of unused, expired, or unneeded medication** by dropping them off at a take-back location or using a DisposeRx packet for safe at home disposal.

### RESOURCES

- **Call 911 in case of a medical emergency**, including an overdose.
- **Contact 988 in times of crisis** or when you just need guidance for mental health concerns, substance use, suicidal thoughts, emotional support or if you're seeking help for a loved one. 988 is available via call, text, and chat 24/7.
- **Scan the QR code** to order a medication lock box and Dispose Rx packets or find a take back location.
- **For more information** on safe medication storage and disposal guidelines and care coordination, visit [letsbeclearsd.com](https://letsbeclearsd.com).

**988**  
SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

From 2015 to 2024,  
there were

**824**

**overdose deaths**  
in South Dakota

**79%**

of overdose deaths  
were **accidental**

**17%**

of overdose deaths  
were **intentional**.

**49%**

of overdose deaths  
were among adults  
**aged 30-49 years**

**SDSP**  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
SUICIDE PREVENTION

SOUTH DAKOTA,  
**Let's Be Clear**  
PREVENTION. TREATMENT. RECOVERY.



10/2025

