



State of Utah

Department of  
Environmental Quality

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Drop off unused Drugs at Smith's for Safe, Proper Disposal**

Salt Lake City, Utah – If you are like most of us, there's countless unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs in your medicine cabinets or drawers waiting to be disposed of – but where?

Because improper disposal can harm the environment and pose a health and safety risk, Smith's Food and Drug Stores has teamed up with local and state governments in a pilot program to address this issue.

The in-store medication collection event will occur on April 25 at the Smith's Food and Drug Store, located at 845 East 4500 South. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., people can drop off their unused medications near the pharmacy where a Smith's pharmacist will be on hand to offer assistance and inventory the collections.

“We are pleased to offer this important service for our customers,” said Marsha Gilford, Smith's Vice President of Public Affairs.

“This is a chance to dispose of unwanted drugs in a safe and responsible way,” said Leah Ann Lamb, assistant director of the Division of Water Quality. “Flushing medicines down the toilet or sink enter the water because some wastewater treatment plants aren't designed to remove them, Lamb said.

This Take-Back Collection Event is a pilot project in partnership with the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, Millcreek Precinct, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Utah Poison Control Center and the Salt Lake Valley Health Department.

DEQ has provided grants to local law enforcement agencies to provide collection boxes. Smith's is the first in-store medication collection event to occur in Utah. For more information on proper medication disposal including a list of the collection box locations, visit:

[www.medicationdisposal.utah.gov](http://www.medicationdisposal.utah.gov).

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