Elizabethtown Police Department
Prescription Drug Take Back Program

The Elizabethtown Police Department will collect unwanted pharmaceuticals (prescription medications) throughout the year at the police station during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, 7:30 AM – 4 PM. PILLS ONLY. This does not include liquids, creams or inhaler type containers. Empty the pills from the original container into a clear plastic bag for drop off.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) coordinated the first "National Prescription Drug Take Back" in 2010. The event was very successful when state, county, municipal and Federal law enforcement partnered to collect more than 120 tons of unwanted pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medication throughout the United Sates. In 2016 the event collected a record 447 tons.

Prescription drugs need to be disposed of properly. Flushing unused medications or throwing them into the trash can have adverse effects on the environment. Aside from possibly damaging the treatment facilities, sewage treatment plants are not able to remove all of the chemicals and therefore drugs may make it into our waterways which enter streams, rivers, wildlife and plant life.

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing public health threat facing the nation today, with most of those controlled substances found in our own medicine cabinets. Keeping medications out of the wrong hands is a critical step in solving the growing problem of pharmaceutical drug abuse. One reason to destroy unneeded medications is to help prevent "Pharming Parties." Pharming is when individuals raid medicine cabinets (usually their parents' or grandparents') and take handfuls of pain medicines, anti-anxiety medicines, stimulants, anti-depressants or other drugs that may be available. Sometimes they even take heart or blood pressure medicine. Drug abuse usually involves the quickest and cheapest way to get "high," and nothing is cheaper or easier than stealing from a parents' or grandparents' drug supply.

The public may drop off their unwanted pharmaceuticals (PILLS ONLY) at the Elizabethtown Police Department located at 600 South Hanover Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022, Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM – 4 PM.

The Elizabethtown Police Department also collects unwanted pharmaceuticals at the Elizabethtown Senior Center on the third Wednesday of each month between 10:00 – 10:15 AM. The Senior Center is located at 70 South Poplar Street in Elizabethtown.