

PORT TOWNSEND POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE
April 1, 2011

CLEAN OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINETS!

PORT TOWNSEND POLICE DEPARTMENT TAKING BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The Port Townsend Police Department, working with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), has scheduled a second Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The Port Townsend Police Department will be safely and legally collecting potentially dangerous, expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs, medications and supplements for destruction on **Saturday, April 30th from 10 AM to 2 PM**. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last September, Americans turned in 242,000 pounds of prescription drugs at nearly 4,100 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,000 state and local law enforcement partners, including the Port Townsend Police Department. In Jefferson County, more than 50 people brought their unwanted medications to the first "Take-Back" event.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medications that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends. According to the *2010 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey*, 8% of students in grade 10 and 12 used a prescription pain medication to get high in the past 30 days. Because these drugs are often readily available, teens who wouldn't otherwise touch illicit drugs might abuse prescription drugs. Proper and safe disposal prevents theft and other misuse of medications.

In addition, there are environmental concerns about the impact of medications on the water supply and natural aquatic habitats. Medications should not be flushed down the toilet or thrown away in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

The "Take-Back Day" in Port Townsend will be **Saturday, April 30th from 10 AM to 2 PM** at the following location:

**Port Townsend Police Department
1925 Blaine Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
(360) 385-2322**

The following items do not qualify as items that can be handed in. Please do not bring in:

- IV Solutions
- Syringes
- Medical Waste
- Syringes with liquid in them
- Old Crutches
- Air casts
- Splints

This "Take-Back Day" is in addition to the ongoing Drug Take-Back Program offered by both the Port Townsend Police Department and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Please see <http://www.cityofpt.us/Police/> or <http://www.jeffersonsheriff.org> for information regarding the ongoing Drug Take-Back Program. If you have any questions please feel free to contact: Kay Pownall of the Port Townsend Police Department (360-385-2322).