

## Operation Medicine Cabinet Saturday

Written by Steve Frank  
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Saturday, May 4th, in Watauga and Avery Counties. Operation Medicine Cabinet is a prescription drug take back program designed to get outdated and unused prescription drugs properly disposed of. The take back program, a cooperative effort between local water conservation groups and local law enforcement began with two objectives:

1. Keep prescription drugs away from children.
2. Keep prescription drugs out of our rivers, streams and water supplies.

But Safe Kids Worldwide says approximately 165 kids are seen every day in emergency rooms across the US for accidental poisoning from prescription drugs, and that teen abuse of prescription drugs is also on the rise. Easy accessibility of prescription drugs has made them a popular substitute for alcohol and illicit drugs. Common disposal techniques of unused prescription drugs, such as flushing down a toilet, allow chemicals to find their way into our water and food supplies. Studies published by the Environmental Protection Agency consistently show that medications, such as antibiotics are being found in drinking water. The solution to these two problems is simple. Bring your unused and expired prescription medication to a take back location on Saturday May 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take-back locations in Watauga will be available at the Foscoe Fire Department, Beaverdam Fire Department and the three Food Lion stores in Watauga County: the Highway 321 store in Boone, the Highway 421 Deep Gap store, and the Blowing Rock store, and in Avery, the Food Lion in Banner Elk, Elk Park Volunteer Fire Department and in the parking area outside of Avery County Schools Central Services. It is an amnesty day, so no questions will be asked. <http://drugtakebackday.com>.