



# WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Press Release

### **Westport Police taking back unwanted prescription drugs October 26 at 180 Bayberry Lane**

[**Westport, CT**] – On Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Westport Police Department and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public its 18th opportunity in nine years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the Westport-Weston Health District at 180 Bayberry Lane. (Sites cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Additionally, please see the attached link in regards to disposal of vape pens:

[https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/vaping\\_disposal.pdf](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/vaping_disposal.pdf)

Vape pens where the batteries can be removed, can be disposed of at the drug take back. Vape pens where batteries cannot be removed will **NOT** be accepted at the drug take back.

Last fall Americans turned in nearly 469 tons (more than 937,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at nearly 6,300 sites operated by the DEA and almost 5,000 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 17 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in more than 11.8 million pounds—approximately 5,900 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 26 Take Back Day event, go to [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com)