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Health Department Begins Mailing Drug Deactivation System to Residents

The Delaware County Health Department (DCHD), in partnership with Delaware County Council held a press availability on Monday, December 18th, to announce the launch of its Deterra Drug Deactivation System pouch and awareness postcard mailing campaign as part of Delaware County's use of opioid settlement funds.

DCHD is bringing this public health harm reduction strategy directly to residents and is pleased that Deterra pouches and awareness postcards will be shipped to 165,289 county residential addresses in randomly chosen zip codes—approximately 70% of all residential addresses in the county— just in time for the holidays. Most residents can expect to see them as early as next week. DCHD hopes to be able to mail to remaining addresses next year, contingent on additional opioid settlement funding being designated for this purpose.

These non-toxic pouches are an organic and safe alternative for proper disposal of unused, unwanted and expired medications with the simple addition of water. In a simple 3-step process, residents deactivate drugs by putting them in the Deterra pouch, adding water, shaking, and throwing them away in the household garbage. DCHD will be issuing medium-sized Deterra pouches that can deactivate up to 45 pills.

"Public Health 3.0 is about meeting residents where they are," said Delaware County Health Department Director Melissa Lyon. "Not only do these pouches reduce the potential for abuse of opioids, safely destroy unwanted drugs, and help protect the environment they reduce barriers by helping residents skip the trip to drug drop off box locations."

The Deterra pouches help protect the environment by preventing pharmaceutical drugs from contaminating water supply and landfills. Critically, the Deterra pouches and awareness postcards help destigmatize substance use disorders, reminding residents of resources for help in the county, and reducing avenues for drug abuse and addiction.

"The Deterra Drug Deactivation System is a game-changer in our fight against the drug overdose epidemic," said Council Chair Dr. Taylor. "It provides a discreet, effective way to dispose of unused medications, helping to destigmatize substance use disorders while supporting individuals and families impacted by this crisis."

Don't Ditch! Deactivate. Recipients are urged not to dispose of these pouches before they can be used. If there is no immediate need for their use in the home, please store and save them for later use. The pouches do not have an expiration date. Residents who receive but do not want to keep these pouches are asked to share them with family members or neighbors who can use them.

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SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNUSED PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

The Deterra Drug Deactivation and Disposal System is a simple, environmentally safe way to get rid of unneeded drugs

WHY DO WE NEED SAFE MEDICATION DISPOSAL?

Over 40 people die every day in the U.S. from a prescription opioid overdose, according to the CDC¹



More than 60% of people with leftover prescription opioids keep unused pills instead of disposing of them²



Most misused medications are taken from friends and family³

Destroying medications with Deterra keeps children, pets and others safe from accidentally ingesting unused or expired drugs



Properly disposing of unneeded drugs helps prevent them from being misused or stolen



At-home drug deactivation and disposal helps keep unused medications out of our water and soil



WHAT IS THE DETERRA DRUG DEACTIVATION AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM?

Deterra is a safe medication disposal pouch that allows you to safely deactivate and dispose of unneeded pills, patches, liquids, creams and films at home.

HOW DO I USE THE DETERRA POUCH?



1 PLACE MEDICATION IN POUCH.
Open pouch and place unused medications inside.



2 FILL HALFWAY WITH WATER.
Fill halfway with warm water and wait 30 seconds. Foaming may occur.



3 SEAL, SHAKE & DISPOSE IN TRASH.
Seal tightly, gently shake and dispose of in normal trash.

NOT READY TO DISPOSE OF YOUR MEDICATIONS YET? FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR SAFE STORAGE:

Keep out of reach of children. Storing your medication somewhere where children cannot reach or see them helps prevent dangerous accidents.

Put medicine away every time. Never leaving medication out where others can easily access it can help ensure that only the person to whom it is prescribed uses it.

Communicate about safety. Letting everyone in your household know the safety precautions around medication can help keep them safe from medication misuse or abuse.

Get rid of unused medicine safely and promptly. Keeping unused medication in your household is very dangerous. Use Deterra to safely dispose of your medication.

Watch
How-to Video



For more information about the Deterra® Drug Deactivation and Disposal System, visit DeterraSystem.com.

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/prescription/maps.html#:~:text=In%202019%2C%20an%20average%20of,totaling%20more%20than%2014%2C000%20deaths.>

²<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternatmedicine/fullarticle/2527388>

³https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt29392/Assistant-Secretary-nsduh2019_presentation/Assistant-Secretary-nsduh2019_presentation.pdf

CÓMO FUNCIONA: BOLSAS

El sistema de desactivación y eliminación de medicamentos Deterra[®] es el único sistema seguro de eliminación de medicamentos que desactiva, destruye y elimina de forma permanente e irreversible los medicamentos de venta libre y con receta, lo que los convierte en irrecuperables a todos los efectos prácticos. Además, es más seguro para el medioambiente, ya que utiliza envases de origen vegetal y evita que los medicamentos nocivos contaminen los vertederos y los sistemas de agua.

El proceso patentado de tres pasos se ejecuta mediante un carbón activado, orgánico y registrado, y funciona en muchas formas de medicamentos como píldoras, parches, líquidos, cremas y láminas¹.



1

Abra la bolsa y no retire las cápsulas interiores. Coloque los medicamentos no utilizados en el interior.



2

Llene la bolsa hasta la mitad con agua caliente y espere 30 segundos para que salga el aire. Puede producirse un poco de espuma.



3

Cierre bien la bolsa, agítela suavemente y tírela a la basura común.

¹Para desactivar y desechar los parches transdérmicos, pegue el lado adhesivo del parche a un pañuelo facial e introdúzcalo en la bolsa Deterra.



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