



## Cass County Locations



### Dowagiac Police Department

241 S. Front Street, Dowagiac  
8:30a to 5:00p Mon. thru Fri

### Family Fare Supermarket

56151 M-51, Dowagiac  
6:00a to Midnight, 7 days



### Ontwa/Edwardsburg Police Dept.

26296 East Main, Edwardsburg  
8:30a to 2:30p M-Th  
8:30a to 1:30p Friday



### Pokagon Tribal Health Center

58620 Sink Rd, Dowagiac  
7:30a to 5:00p M,T,W & F  
7:30 to 7:00p Thursday



### \*Cass County Sheriff Office

321 M-62, Cassopolis  
24 hours, 7 days

\*Disposal Box is provided by the Sheriff



Red Box Disposal Boxes Provided by  
SWMBH



C.A.S.S. Community Coalition is  
a service of Woodlands' Substance  
Abuse Prevention Services.

Some Pharmacies are now able to receive &  
dispose of unused medications.  
To find additional year-round disposal visit:  
[takebackday.dea.gov](http://takebackday.dea.gov)

### Red Med Box will accept

- Expired and unused medications
- Over the Counter medications
- Antibiotics, steroids
- Cold and flu medications
- Vitamins and herbal supplements
- Medication samples
- **Pet Medications**
- Medicated ointment, lotions, drops
- Unopened Epi-Pens
- Liquids
- **Sorry No: Sharps or Lancets**

### More Resources

**The Medicine Safety: A Toolkit for Families** was developed by The Center for Improving Medication Management (The CIMM) and the National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPPIE) to help ensure that consumers of all ages have access to important information and educational resources to promote safe and appropriate medicine use.  
[www.learnaboutrxsafety.org](http://www.learnaboutrxsafety.org)

**Medicine Abuse Project:** Parents and grandparents, you can play a powerful role in preventing your teen from abusing medicine. Partners for Drug Free Kids has created a comprehensive site to learn more about medicine abuse prevention and treatment.  
[www.medicineabuseproject.org](http://www.medicineabuseproject.org)

**Stop Medicine Abuse:** A prevention campaign is working to alert parents and members of the community about the problem of teen abuse of over-the-counter cough medicines containing dextromethorphan (DXM).  
[www.stopmedicineabuse.org](http://www.stopmedicineabuse.org)



# Cass County Prescription & OTC Drug Safety and Disposal



C.A.S.S.  
Community  
Coalition

A Service of Woodlands  
Substance Abuse Prevention Services

# Prescription and Over the Counter Drug Safety

## Red Med Box Drug Collection

There are certain prescribed medications that are categorized as controlled substances. Those along with some over the counter medications have a high potential for abuse and addiction. Unlike non-controlled medications controlled substances cannot be dropped at the pharmacy when they are no longer needed or expired. Flushing controlled substances and other medications can cause water contamination and other environmental hazards making flushing an unsafe method of disposal. In order to address the need for safe permanent disposal C.A.S.S. Community Coalition in collaboration with Dowagiac PD, Edwardsburg/Ontwa PD, Pokagon Tribal Police, and Silver Creek PD has provided five Red Med Box locations in Cass County.

The purchase of the boxes was made possible through funding from Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH). Red Med Box allows for safe disposal of unwanted, unused and/or expired prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications. Using Red Med Box collection sites help to protect our environment. It also helps to combat prescription drug abuse, addiction and accidental or intentional overdose.

The theft and abuse of scheduled prescription and some over-the-counter (OTC) medicines is a serious problem. You play a big role in keeping these powerful medicines out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them.



### Secure and Monitor Your Meds

- ◆ Keep your prescription drugs in a locked or secure place
- ◆ Organize and Monitor your medicine cabinet and keep track of how many pills are in each or your prescription bottles.
- ◆ If your children take prescription drugs, keep control of the bottles. Talk to your school nurse about monitoring and giving your teen their medication during the school day.
- ◆ Be sure older adults understand the importance of securing and monitoring their medications.



### Safety and Prevention

- ◆ Never share your prescription medications with anyone. It is both illegal and dangerous.
- ◆ Educate your children about the dangers of abusing prescription and OTC drugs.
- ◆ Monitor children's texting, social media and internet use. Most adolescents use these means to communicate, sadly this includes talking about and planning drug use.
- ◆ Use your influence. Parents are the most influential person in a child's life. Talk to them about the dangers and risk of all drug and alcohol use.



### Disposal Do's and Don'ts

- ◆ **Don't** keep unneeded medications in your home.
- ◆ **Don't** flush medications down the drain or toilet, unless specifically directed to by the manufacturer. They may enter the water table and cause environmental problems.
- ◆ **Do** safely dispose of unused medications.
  - ◆ The best way to dispose of your unused medications is at a local collection site. Cass County locations are listed in this brochure.
  - ◆ If a disposal site is unavailable mix unused medications into a unpleasant substance such as coffee grounds or cat litter. Seal contents in a zip lock bag and dispose in the trash on trash day.



### Resources

- ◆ **National Institute on Drug Abuse: List of most commonly abused drugs.** [www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/commonly-abused-drugs-charts](http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/commonly-abused-drugs-charts)
- ◆ **Woodlands Behavior Health Care: Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention services**



**CASS.Community**