

Controlled Substance Disposal Procedure

**Purpose:** To provide researchers with the means to dispose of expired or unused doses of controlled substances.

**General:** Expired or unopened containers of controlled substances may be returned for proper disposal using a reverse distributor. Such arrangements must be made between the reverse distributor and individual DEA/TN Board of Pharmacy registrants. At this time the Office of Research Safety Affairs does not maintain a contract or relationship with any specific vendor but can provide contact information for one of more reverse distributors upon request.

Any destruction of controlled substances by the DEA registrant must be done in a manner that renders the material irretrievable. Controlled substances should not be discarded down the drain. Municipal water treatment facilities do not treat waste water for the presence of controlled substances or other pharmaceuticals.

**Procedure:**

1. Research Safety Affairs maintains a stock of [Rx Destroyer](#) for use by researchers on campus. Rx Destroyer combines a solvent and binding agent that renders controlled substances irretrievable. Researchers looking to destroy expired or unwanted controlled substances can contact Research Safety Affairs by emailing [labsafety@uthsc.edu](mailto:labsafety@uthsc.edu) or calling 8-6114 to make arrangements to have a Rx Destroyer brought to their lab.
2. A representative from Research Safety Affairs will visit the laboratory at a pre-arranged time with a container of Rx Destroyer and a copy of DEA Form 41.
3. The DEA registrant or an Authorized User will transfer the controlled substance from its original container into the container of Rx Destroyer in accordance with the instructions detailed on the back of the bottle. The representative from Research Safety Affairs will witness the disposal to ensure that the instructions are correctly followed, and that the maximum capacity of the Rx Destroyer is not exceeded. UTHSC policy and DEA regulations require that this destruction be witnessed by at least two Authorized employees.
4. The Use Logs for any controlled substance containers that have been destroyed must be updated to document the fate of this material and to balance the quantity of material on-hand with the information reflected in the registrant's documentation.
5. The DEA registrant or their Authorized User(s) must complete DEA Form 41 by filling in all required fields, identifying Rx Destroyer as the method of destruction (Part C of Form 41) and signing as witnesses. The DEA registrant must retain this form with other controlled substance records for a period of at least two years.

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6. The DEA registrant or Authorized User and the representative from Research Safety Affairs will examine the contents of the Rx Destroyer container to ensure that all controlled substances have dissolved.
7. The Research Safety Affairs representative will remove the container of Rx Destroyer from the lab for disposal as non-regulated waste.