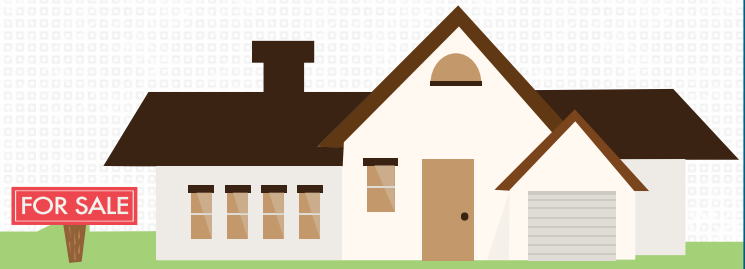


Securing Your Client's Prescription Drugs During the Selling Process

Oftentimes sellers have unsecured prescription medications and/or sharps in their homes leaving them vulnerable to theft. This flyer includes tips that can help protect your clients and keep the community safe by preventing accidental drug poisonings and protecting the environment from harmful toxins.



Why is it important to properly secure and dispose of medication and sharps?

- Unsecured medications pose the potential risk of:
 - **Theft** - Unsecured prescription medications are targeted by thieves during open houses. Many homeowners don't consider their prescriptions to be items of discernible value.
 - **Unsafe non-medical use** - Drug overdose deaths are a leading cause of accidental deaths in the United States. Many people who abuse prescription drugs get them from friends or relatives.
 - **Poisoning** - Children or pets may ingest the medication and become sick or die.
- Improperly disposing of prescription medications directly into the trash leaves them accessible for non-medical use.
- Flushing medications down the toilet can pollute water systems.
- Properly disposing of sharps helps protect children, pets, and sanitary workers that collect household trash.
- Safely disposing of sharps helps stop the spread of diseases such as HIV and hepatitis.

How can real estate agents help protect their clients?

Talk to your clients about ways to secure prescription medications before prospective buyers are invited into the home. Add resources for properly disposing of expired or unused prescription medications and sharps to the checklist of preparation materials. This can include the following:



Urge clients to place medications into a safe or other locking container. Check areas that are easily-accessible such as the bathroom medicine cabinet.



Provide a lock box for your clients to use during open houses. Clermont County Public Health has pill pods and lock boxes available for realtors to lend to clients. You can obtain one by calling 513-735-8400.



Include a list of prescription drug drop box locations within Clermont County. There are several convenient locations where medications can be dropped off for safe disposal. There is no cost to use the drop boxes.



Offer a flyer outlining how to properly dispose of medical sharps with their household trash.



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Prevent. Promote. Protect.