

Lock, Monitor & Dispose of Alcohol & Other Drugs in Your Home

If you have alcohol, tobacco, vape, marijuana, prescription medications or even over-the-counter cough medications that might be taken without permission* or misused:



Jefferson County
Communities That Care

**TWELVE TALKS
TO HAVE WITH TEENS**
twelvetalks.com



1. LOCK alcohol & other drugs, as well as firearms, in a secure location to prevent access by children, teens, pets, household visitors or visitors in your home.

- Use a lock box or safe purchased from a pharmacy or outdoor store.
- Or use a locked drawer, cabinet, closet or room that would have to be broken to be opened.
- Also, ask your friends and family open-ended questions about their safe storage practices.

2. MONITOR any alcohol, medications, and marijuana stored in your home.

- Know what and how much you have so you will notice if any is missing. Keeping all items, or all of one type of item, in one place makes tracking easier. (Except, when keeping items apart makes them harder to misuse.)
- Let teens know that you carefully track the amount of alcohol or marijuana in the home.
- In case of social events, keep alcohol or marijuana in an area away from other beverages, food and activities so that teens don't have any need to be near by.
- Also, consider not giving your teenager more than a few days' worth of their own prescribed medication at one time. (Even if they don't purposely sell them, friends might pilfer from their supply or pressure them into giving them a few. Or your own teen might get mixed up about timing dosage.)

3. DISPOSE of alcohol & other drugs immediately and safely.

- The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has a medication drop off box in their lobby or find a location at takemedsseriously.org; additionally, safe disposal bags are available at many pharmacies.
- Pour out any alcohol that will not be used within the next month or two.

**Note: Even if your teen would never take these items without permission, these steps can prevent your teens' friends, younger children, visitors and pets from accessing substances stored in your home.*

