

# MEDICAL CANNABIS STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

## Storage

Proper storage of medical cannabis is important, as improper storage can lead to product breakdown. As cannabis ages, the chemicals of the plant can change into different chemical compounds, meaning medical cannabis will not work as well as it once did. Improper storage can also increase the risk of mold, bacterial, and fungal growth on cannabis, which can cause several health issues. Properly storing medical cannabis ensures the quality and safety of the product.

Medical cannabis, like other medications, should be stored in a secure place in your private residence, away from children and pets. It should be stored in a child-resistant container when not in use. Keep track of the amount of medical cannabis in your home to ensure no one else is using your medical cannabis products.

If you have children, consider having age-appropriate conversations with them about the purpose of medical cannabis in the home. Make it clear that medical cannabis is for medical purposes only and, just like other medications, it should be used only by the person who obtained it using their written certification.

If you have further questions on storage practices, speak with the pharmacist on duty at one of Virginia's medical cannabis dispensaries. They are there to assist you.



## Safe Storage Container Checklist

My medical cannabis storage container...

- Is child-resistant.
- Has airtight seals.
- Has little-to-no air space between the product and the top of the container.
- Prevents exposure to moisture.
- Protects against light exposure.
- Is in a cool, dark, and dry place.
- Is placed in a locked cabinet or lockbox when not in use.
- Is stored away from the reach of children and pets.
- Is in the trunk of my car while I am driving.

# MEDICAL CANNABIS STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

## Disposal

The best disposal option is to mix cannabis with undesirable substances, such as kitty litter, dirt, or used coffee grounds. The goal is to make medical cannabis products unusable. The mixture of cannabis and undesirable substances should go into a sealable container (e.g., resealable zipper storage bag or screw-top container) before being put into the garbage.

If you have further questions about disposal methods, speak with the pharmacist on duty at one of Virginia's medical cannabis dispensaries.

## Storage and Disposal Laws in Virginia



Under Virginia law, medical cannabis products must be sold in child-resistant packaging. All qualified medical cannabis patients, parents, legal guardians, and registered agents should transport and store cannabis to prevent theft, loss, or access by those under 21 years of age and non-medical cannabis patients. They should also dispose of all usable cannabis products in their possession within ten calendar days of the expiration of a patient's written certification.



### QUICK TIPS



Dark, cool, and dry places are best for most forms of medical cannabis.



The best humidity for storage is between 54% and 63%.



The best temperature for storage is between 55° F and 65° F.



Store cannabis in a locked cabinet or lockbox.



Avoid storing cannabis in places children and pets can reach.



Dispose of cannabis using a sealable container.