

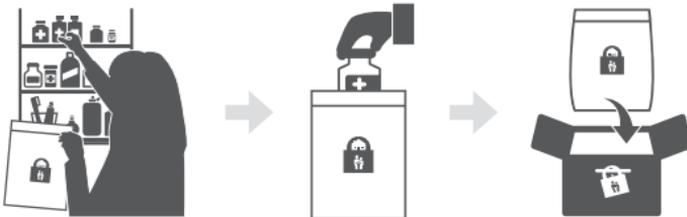


## GREATER BOSTON/MASSACHUSETTS KEEP KIDS SAFE PROGRAM

Prescription drug abuse is a critical and complex public health and safety issue impacting more than 6 million Americans. The costs to the health care system and to law enforcement are considerable, not to mention the loss of life and destruction of families. To tackle this national problem, we all need to take a stand and get involved.

The Safe Homes Coalition's Keep Kids Safe Program provides re-sealable plastic bags to real estate professionals so your clients can secure prescription medications while the home is being shown to potential buyers.

This won't solve the epidemic alone, but can serve as one tool in the toolbox to help change behaviors and teach consumers about the importance of securing and properly disposing of prescription medications.



[MAKEITSAFEHOME.ORG](http://MAKEITSAFEHOME.ORG)

The Greater Boston Association of REALTORS® (GBAR), a division of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, is committed to protecting its members and maintaining their personal safety. By educating REALTORS® about potential threats and providing them with resources to protect themselves, GBAR can help REALTORS® stay safe. From helping you create your own Safety Strategy



to sharing the latest tips and best practices, the Greater Boston Association of REALTORS® serves as a premiere resource for members on safety awareness. For more information please visit [realtor.org/topics/realtor-safety](http://realtor.org/topics/realtor-safety).



### How does the Safe Homes Coalition program work?

This program engages the real estate community, creating opportunities to partner with experts in the field of recovery and addiction services, to educate the public about another access point for the abuse and misuse of prescription medications.

### What is my role in this effort?

REALTORS® will be provided with materials, including a public service announcement, literature, and re-sealable plastic bags to distribute to their clients. REALTORS® will not be asked to take possession of any medications; rather they will make bags available to their clients with information about proper storage and then disposal by respective local public safety officials.

### Why REALTORS® and why open houses?

Just as clinicians, law enforcement, and elected officials need to be vigilant in reducing and responding to abuse and misuse, the REALTOR® community can be a powerful ally in addressing this problem as well. REALTORS® are well-positioned to educate individuals and clients about this issue and provide guidance to protect the property of their customers.

### Is this actually an issue? Are public safety officials seeing this occur in our communities?

Access is a major part of the problem. By providing consumers with a safe and convenient method to store medications while people have access to their home, and then dispose of unused medication, we can help limit this potentially dangerous access. Public safety officials are seeing prescription drug abuse rise at an alarming rate, and while we don't have reliable statistics on instances of this kind of theft, we all recognize that reducing access is one more way to address a complex issue.



#### One-third of teens

say they believe "It's okay to use prescription drugs that were not prescribed for them to deal with an injury, illness or physical pain."



#### 43 percent of teens

indicate prescription drugs are easier to get than illegal drugs.



#### 4 in 10 teens

who have misused or abused a prescription drug obtained it from their parent's medicine cabinet.



#### Almost 1 in 3 kids

who report having misused or abused a prescription drug has done so before the age of 14.

