

IS YOUR TOILET ON DRUGS?

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS IN WASTEWATER

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DO NOT FLUSH

One of the miracles of medicine is the vast array of pharmaceutical products now available to treat our ailments.

But our bodies naturally excrete a portion as well as change the chemical composition during digestion.

Consumers were once advised to flush all their expired or unused medications but recent environmental studies report that this is having an adverse impact on the environment, our waters and fish populations.

Disposing of medications in the trash protects children and pets from harm! The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) recommends:

- Crush solid medications or dissolve them in water (this applies for liquid medications as well)
- Mix with coffee grounds, kitty litter, dog poo or sawdust (or any material that absorbs the dissolved medication and makes it less appealing for pets or small children to eat)
- Place in a sealed plastic bag, preferably double bag, or unbreakable, sealable container BEFORE tossing in the trash.
- Remove and destroy ALL identifying personal information (prescription label) from the medication container.
- Check for approved state and local collection programs or with area hazardous waste agencies.**
- Keep a close eye on who has access to your medications.**

Follow these simple steps to help

- protect your family and protect our community
- minimize potential damage to the environment
- prevent the illegal diversion of unused medications.
- prevent accidental drug interactions
- keep prescription drugs out of the reach of children.
- For more information on this issue and to find out when a Household Hazardous Waste Collection is scheduled visit the following website:**

nwmirxteam.wordpress.com

and

www.epa.gov/ppcp



INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURNING DRUGS AT A COLLECTION EVENT

- Remove or destroy ALL identifying personal information (prescription label) on the medication container.
This will prevent anyone else from illegally attempting to access your personal files and prescriptions
- Bag all original containers together.
- Or** empty all pills or capsules into a single double bagged sealed plastic bags. Most collections may not legally accept labeled controlled substances such as vicodin or oxycontin.
- For liquid items, destroy labels, place container INSIDE another sealed unbreakable one.**
- For any needles/sharps PLACE INSIDE A SEALED UNBREAKABLE CONTAINER.**