

Why Be Concerned?

- The U.S. Geological Survey found that 80% of the watersheds they sampled nationally contained low levels of at least one type of pharmaceutical chemical, with half of the streams containing seven or more.
- Wastewater treatment facilities are not equipped to filter these chemicals out, so many drugs and other compounds are being detected in drinking water.
- The effects of most of these products are unknown, but increased concentrations of antibiotics have produced “super bugs”; bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics.
- The risks of long-term exposure of these substances to humans, animals and ecosystems are unknown.
- Previous information campaigns encouraged consumers to “flush” excess pharmaceuticals, but these substances end up in our drinking water.
- There is currently no national guidance for the proper disposal of PPCPs. The guidelines in this brochure offer safe disposal methods that protect water quality and human health.



TAKE BACK PROGRAM

Washtenaw County has instituted a pilot take back program! Check out www.dontflushdrugs.com or call 734-222-3950 for locations and accepted items.

GETTING HELP

Washtenaw County Water Resources
Commissioner's Office..... (734) 222-6833
or (734) 222-6860

Washtenaw County
Home Toxics Program..... (734) 222-3950

Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality..... (800) 662-9278

See the Washtenaw County website at
www.ewashtenaw.org

For other information about water quality issues, please see “The Homeowner’s Handbook: A Guide to Water Quality Protection for Homeowners Associations and Households.”

OFFICE OF THE WASHTENAW COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER

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Prescription Drug and Personal Care Product Disposal



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Office of the Washtenaw
County Water Resources
Commissioner

Washtenaw County
Environmental Health



Proper Disposal of Drugs and Personal Care Products

If you are instructed to do so by your physician, finish the prescription. "Wrap and Trash" leftover prescriptions by following the directions below or use a take back program. Remember to remove or black out any personal information on the label to protect privacy, but ensure the drug name is still visible. Check the back panel of this brochure for more information about local take back programs in Washtenaw County.

Capsules and Tablets in Containers



- Secure the cap on the bottle.
- Cover the cap with duct tape, fully sealing the container to prevent breaking or leakage.
- Double wrap the sealed containers in opaque plastic bags. Tightly tie or secure the bags with duct tape to prevent leakage and place in the trash.

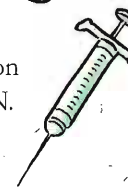
Blister-Packaged Capsules and Tablets



- Wrap package with several layers of duct tape, allowing visibility of the product name. This will prevent blister packs from breakage.
- Double bag the sealed packs in opaque plastic bags. Tightly tie or secure the bags with duct tape to prevent leakage and place in the trash.



Ampules, Vials, and Needles



- Do not open or alter the original contents if possible.
- Call the Washtenaw County 24 hour home toxics info line (734) 222-3950 for information and drop off hours at 705 N. Zeeb Road. Also check the *Turning Trash to Treasure* guide on www.ewashtenaw.org for a pharmacy drop off location near you.
- Residents outside Washtenaw County should call their Solid Waste Department or Waste Hauling Services for instructions on proper disposal.

Liquid PPCPs



- Seal the container with duct tape to prevent leaks and breakage.
- To take maximum precautions, add salt, a pungent spice such as nutmeg or mustard, or a bitter tasting additive. Kitty litter, sawdust or an absorbing agent can also be added to the liquid to repel animals.
- Double bag the sealed containers in opaque plastic bags. Tightly tie or secure the bags with duct tape to prevent leakage and place in the trash.