



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For April 30, 2011

Date: April 27, 2011

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**Washtenaw County Law Enforcement Agencies Participate in
National Prescription Drug Take Back Day April 30th**

ANN ARBOR, MI, April 27, 2011 – The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) is sponsoring a drug take back program on Saturday, April 30th in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies. The event is free and open to the public. Participants can drop off their pills (no liquids, please), including [controlled substances](#), at these locations and times.

City of Ann Arbor Police Department

Ann Arbor Justice Center, 2nd floor

301 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Michigan State Police Post

1501 S. Huron, Ypsilanti

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Northfield Township Police Department

8350 Main St., Whitmore Lake

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Pittsfield Township Police Department

6227 Michigan Ave., Ann Arbor

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department
2201 Hogback Rd., Ann Arbor
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high. According to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more Americans abuse prescription drugs than those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined. Studies show that individuals who abuse prescription drugs often obtain them from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away – both potential safety and health hazards.

Washtenaw County has several local pharmacies that accept unused pharmaceuticals and dispose of them in a safe, environmentally-sound manner. However, the pharmacies are not legally able to collect controlled or scheduled drugs. Please visit www.dontflushdrugs.com for a list of local pharmacies participating in the County's take-back program and for information about what is considered a scheduled drug.

At Saturday's event, residents may drop off their unused, expired, or unwanted medications. Unlike the County's take-back program, controlled substances will be accepted at this special collection event. No liquids or aerosols will be accepted. If a person brings in illegal narcotics, a police report will be filed.

For information about this event and other disposal options for unused medicines, please visit www.dontflushdrugs.com or contact Jeff Krcmarik with the Washtenaw County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Division at krcmarij@ewashtenaw.org, 734-222-6865.

For information about DEA and the national collection program, please visit:
<http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/pressrel/pr041911a.html>

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