

Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor



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*A Publication of the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office
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Up Front

The eMonitor is designed to keep our Partners and friends updated on CPCS, stormwater management issues, provide helpful information to reduce stormwater and nonpoint source pollution, recognize new Partners, highlight upcoming events, and create networking opportunities. We hope you enjoy each edition of the Monthly eMonitor and welcome any comments, concerns, or suggestions.

Prescription Drugs in your Water

It is becoming increasingly common for prescription drugs to be found in drinking water. "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." Today's wastewater treatment facilities are not equipped to filter these chemicals out, so when drugs are not properly disposed of they make their way into our surface waters. This issue is one of concern because it is unclear what the long-term effects of exposure to these chemicals are. Therefore, it is important to follow the tips provided in this issue to ensure that Washtenaw County waterways remain clean, safe, and free from prescription drug pollution.

This issue of the eMonitor provides information about the importance of the proper disposal of prescription drugs and offers tips on how to do so.



Prescription Drug Disposal

There are numerous types of prescription drugs, each with different disposal methods. Below are instructions for each particular type.

Capsules, Tablets, in Containers

- 1) Secure the cap on the bottle
- 2) Cover the cap with duct tape, fully sealing the container to prevent breaking or leaking.
- 3) 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

- 1) Wrap package with several layers of duct tape, allowing visibility of the product name. This will prevent blister packs from breakage.
- 2) 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

- 1) Do not open or alter the original contents if possible.
- 2) Call the Washtenaw County 24 hour home toxics hotline (734.222.3950) for information and drop off hours at 705 N. Zeeb Road. Also, check the Turning Trash into Treasure guide on www.ewashtenaw.org for a pharmacy drop off location near you.
- 3) Residents outside Washtenaw County should call their Solid Waste Department or Waste Hauling Services for instructions on proper disposal.

Liquid PPCP's

- 1) Seal the containers with duct tape to prevent leaks
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.



What You Should Do

There are several things you can do manage your prescription drugs before and after deciding to dispose of them.

Follow Doctor's Orders

It is important that if your prescription instructions say to take all the pills in the container, that you do so. Many antibiotic prescriptions are given on the term of being taken to completion in order to ensure their effectiveness on illness.



Blackout Personal Information and DO NOT FLUSH

If you do have extra prescription drugs that are unused or out of date it is important that you blackout any personal information before disposing of them. If you decide disposal is the appropriate thing to do, NEVER flush drugs down the toilet, as they will end up in surface waters.



Take Back Programs

There are resources within our community that will assist with the disposal of prescription drugs. Local resources are:

Dexter Pharmacy- 8059 Main St- Dexter, MI 48130- (734) 426-4641

Dexter Pharmacy 2- 7039 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd.- Dexter, MI 48130- (734) 426-1600

Pharmacy Solutions, Inc.- 5204 Jackson Rd. Suite C- Ann Arbor, MI 48103- (734) 821-8000

St. Joseph Mercy Pharmacy – Reichert- 5333 McAuley Dr.- Ypsilanti, MI 48197- (734) 712-2222

St. Joseph Mercy Pharmacy - Saline 410 W. Russell St.- Saline, MI 48176- (734) 429-1666

St. Joseph Mercy Pharmacy Towers- 5301 E. Huron River Dr.- Ann Arbor, MI 48106- (734) 712-3333

ChelseaCare Pharmacy/St. Joseph Mercy – Chelsea- 775 S. Main St.- Chelsea, MI 48118- (734) 475-3996

The Prescription Shop II- 2140 E. Ellsworth Rd.- Ann Arbor, MI 48108- (734) 677-7066

Village Pharmacy II- 325 N. Maple Rd.- Ann Arbor, MI 48103- (734) 668-9600

Wenk's - Prescription Shop- 2355 E. Stadium Blvd- Ann Arbor, MI 48104- (734) 747 8080

CPCS News

New Community Partners

Welcome to our new partners this month and thank you to our renewed ones. Together we can make a difference to keep Washtenaw County's waterways clean!

Congratulations to our Environmental Excellence Award Winners

Water Quality Protection Award Winner

Ann Arbor Gallup Livery

Honorable Mentions: The Michigan Firehouse Museum of Ypsilanti
The New Center Ann Arbor

Renewing Partners

Pittsfield Township
Charter Township of Ypsilanti



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