

# Prescription Drug Disposal

## Fact Sheet

### WATER POLLUTION

If you're like many people, you might have gathered a collection of prescription drugs and other medicines that are no longer needed. It was once suggested to flush these medications down the toilet or sink. We now know that some of these substances can be bad for our environment. The drugs are not removed by sewage treatment plants or septic tanks and may enter surface and ground waters or soils.



### FACTS ABOUT PRESCRIPTION AND OVER THE COUNTER DRUG DISPOSAL

- Unused medications improperly disposed of can harm you and your environment.
- These chemicals are costly to remove from our drinking water.
- Children and animals could be poisoned if they find and swallow medications.
- When drugs are flushed, they are not removed by the sewage treatment facilities and septic tank systems and can enter the soil, surface water, and groundwater.
- Research studies have shown that exposure to drugs found in waterways is having a serious, negative impact on fish and other aquatic life.
- Pollution prevention -- the elimination or minimization of the pollution source -- is preferable to cleaning up the environment.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

**DO NOT FLUSH! DO NOT POUR!**

Prescription or over-the-counter medications should not be flushed or put down the drain. The following are suggested guidelines for disposal:

- Take your unused or expired medications to a legitimate drug drop.
  - Check local newspaper or internet for scheduled dates and times.
- Check with your local police department.
- Check with your local pharmacy.
- If these options aren't feasible:
  - Remove all labels from prescription bottles;
  - Mix unused drugs with coffee grounds, kitty litter, or another undesirable substance, then;
  - Place mixture in a sealed container and put in your trash on the day of garbage pick-up

### WHY SHOULD I TAKE THE TIME TO DO THIS?

With so many medications and chemicals out on the market, it is more important than ever to keep these chemicals out of our environment. Every medication that is flushed down a toilet or poured down a drain ultimately ends up in our environment and in our drinking water supply! Please do your part to help keep our environment and our drinking water supplies clean and healthy.



City of Noblesville  
**Clean  
Storm  
Water  
Program**



City of Noblesville Utilities



For more information on keeping our water clean, contact the City of Noblesville Clean Storm Water Program at 317.776.6353

[www.cityofnoblesville.org/cleanwater](http://www.cityofnoblesville.org/cleanwater)