

Help Protect New York's Waters



Don't Flush Unwanted Household Medications or Pour Them Down the Drain!

Never flush or pour drugs down the drain or in the garbage disposal. This includes expired and unused prescriptions, and over-the-counter drugs.

Where available, take your medications to a local collection event. Contact your local pharmacy, recycling coordinator, or municipality to find out if there is a household hazardous waste collection event that accepts these materials near you. While waiting for a collection event, keep all medications in a safe, secure place in your home, out of reach of children. If there is no collection event in your area, dispose of drugs in your household trash. Before placing drugs in the trash, follow these steps to avoid accidental or intentional misuse:

- Treat medications (liquids and pills) by adding water and then salt, ashes, dirt, cat litter, coffee grounds, or another undesirable substance.
- Hide all medications in an outer container, such as a sealable bag, box or plastic tub to prevent discovery and removal from the trash. Seal the container with strong tape.
- Dispose of drugs as close to your trash collection day as possible to avoid misuse and/or misdirection.
- Do not conceal discarded drugs in food, because they might be eaten by scavenging wildlife or people.
- Be careful in handling medications since some drugs can cause harm if handled by people other than those to whom they were prescribed. Also, avoid crushing pills as some medications can be harmful in powder form.

www.dontflushyourdrugs.net

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