

DON'T SHARE YOUR MEDICATION WITH THE WATERSHED

Traces of medications can make their way through our sewer system and wastewater treatment facilities into our groundwater. This can happen when individuals flush unused medications down sinks or toilets. Since the wastewater treatment process is not designed to remove medications from the waste stream, traces of medications may remain present when treated wastewater is returned to the environment.

The City of Tucson operates a household hazardous waste program that is funded by the City of Tucson and Pima County. This program accepts a variety of household hazardous wastes including pesticides, paint products, motor oil and a host of other toxic household products.

In addition to handling toxic household chemicals, the Household Hazardous Waste Program also accepts unused medications for safe disposal.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What should I do with my unused medications?** You should bring unused medications to the City of Tucson Household Hazardous Waste Program. This program, funded by the City of Tucson and Pima County accepts a variety of household hazardous wastes including medications for disposal.
2. **Who can I call to get more information regarding the household hazardous waste program?** Please call the City of Tucson Household Hazardous Waste Program information line at 888-6947 more information.
3. **What if I cannot take my unused medications to the Household Hazardous Waste Program site?** The Pharmaceutical Research & Manufactures of America recommends that when discarding unused medications, it is important to do so in a way that minimizes the potential for harm to people, pets, or the environment. You can place unused medication in household trash providing you have made it secure from children and pets by securing the medications in childproof closures and placing it in a sealed opaque bag or container to keep it out of sight. Consider placing these items in the trash just before trash removal.
4. **Why is flushing medications into the sewer system a problem?** The wastewater treatment process is not designed to remove medications from the waste stream; therefore, traces of these medications may remain present when treated wastewater is returned to the environment. Treated wastewater is delivered to parks and golf courses for irrigation.
5. **Can these substances show up in our groundwater?** Recent studies show that traces of medications can make their way through the nation's sewer system and wastewater treatment facilities. Eventually, these substances can show up in our groundwater.