



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Unwanted medicine collection this Saturday

To prevent or reduce accidental contamination of streams, rivers and lakes, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is joining the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's national unwanted medicine "Take-Back" initiative this Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to collect unwanted medicine at three MWRD facilities:

- **Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, 6001 W. Pershing Road, Cicero**
- **O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant (formerly North Side), 3500 Howard Street, Skokie**
- **Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, 400 East 130th Street, Chicago**

This is the seventh nationally organized prescription drug take back day, and the MWRD has participated in each of them, removing hundreds of pounds of medicines from the waste stream.

The MWRD's wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceutical products if they are poured down a drain or flushed down a toilet. The chemicals can work their way into lakes or streams, so this special collection gives the community an environmentally-friendly opportunity to properly dispose of expired or unwanted medications.

Additional information about the bi-annual pharmaceutical disposal collection can be found at http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.

Why is it important to properly dispose of medicines?

Proper disposal:

- protects public health and our environment.
- prevents poisoning of children and pets
- deters misuse by teenagers and adults
- reduces risk of health problems from accidental ingestion of wrong medicine, too much of the same medicine, or a medicine that is too old to work well
- keeps medicines from entering streams and rivers when poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet

Our water environment, Take it personally.

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