



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD to collect unwanted drugs during National Take Back Day Sept. 29

Another opportunity to prevent or reduce accidental contamination of streams, rivers and lakes by disposing of pharmaceuticals in an environmentally-friendly manner will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 29. For the fifth consecutive time, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is joining the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's National Take Back Day to collect unwanted medicine at three MWRD facilities.

The U. S. Drug Enforcement Agency started the organized prescription take back program in September, 2010, and since then, a nationwide total of 995,185 pounds (or 498.5 tons) of unwanted or expired medications have been turned in and removed from circulation.

"Wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceutical products if they are poured down a drain or flushed down a toilet," said Commissioner Kathleen Meany, chair of the Public Information and Education Committee. "The chemicals can work their way into lakes or streams and harm fish and other aquatic life. These special collection opportunities provide residents with a convenient and environmentally-friendly way to properly dispose of expired or unwanted medications. I strongly encourage everyone to clean out their cabinets and bring their unwanted medicines to us on September 29th."

Additional information about pharmaceutical and household hazardous waste disposal can be found at <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov>.

Bring any unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications to any of the following MWRD facilities on **Saturday, September 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:**

Stickney Water Reclamation Plant

6001 W. Pershing Road, Cicero

North Side Water Reclamation Plant

3500 Howard Street, Skokie

Calumet Water Reclamation Plant

400 East 130th Street, Chicago

Pharmaceutical Disposal Tips

Prescription drugs that are more than one year old should be disposed of properly.

Turn in any over-the-counter medicines without an expiration date that are more than six months old.

Keep pharmaceuticals in their original containers with labels to identify contents.

Use a permanent marker to cross out your name and other personal information.

Our water environment...Take it personally