

# Proper Disposal of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drugs in Utah



## FACTS ABOUT PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL

- Unused medications improperly disposed of can harm you and your environment
- Drugs can be scavenged and illegally sold
- Children and animals could be poisoned if they find and swallow drugs
- 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

## NO DRUGS DOWN TOILETS OR SINKS

If you're like most people, you have gathered a collection of prescription drugs and other medicines that are no longer needed.

Once it was common practice to flush these medications down the toilet or sink.

We now know that some of these substances are 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.



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

Properly disposing of unwanted medications may be inconvenient but there are some very important reasons to do this in a safe and responsible manner.

### It's your environment - Please don't flush!

Drugs that are flushed down the toilet cannot be removed by the sewage treatment plant or septic system processes. These substances are released into waterways which can lead to contamination of surface and ground water. Septic tank systems may release the pharmaceuticals into the soil and from there they may reach the ground water.

### Abuse is widespread!

Abuse of prescription drugs, particularly painkillers, has increased among teenagers and young adults. Sixty percent of the persons who abuse painkillers indicated that they received the drugs free from friends or relatives.

### You can make a difference!

Take action to minimize the threat of accidental poisoning or drug abuse. Take steps now to avoid harm to future generations and the environment.

## WHERE CAN I PROPERLY DISPOSE OF MY MEDICATIONS?

Nephi City Police Department has established a proper disposal program for you. Bring your unused prescription and over-the-counter medications for disposal to dropbox located at:

Nephi City Police Department  
42 E 200 N  
Nephi, UT 84648