

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs)

In recent news articles by the Associated Press it was reported that Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCP's) have been detected in some of our nations public water supplies.

The Manchester Water Department would like you to know that we had tests performed on the Town's drinking water and these substances were not detected in our supply.

These substances usually originate from unused drugs and medications that are discarded by flushing down the toilet or poured down a drain. Included with these contaminants are shampoos, fragrances, bug repellants, soaps, anti-bacterial compounds and almost any consumer-use chemical.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities, in general, are not capable of removing these substances so they can enter the environment and may have a detrimental effect on aquatic species.

It is important to note that the State of Connecticut does not allow public drinking water sources downstream of Wastewater Treatment Facilities, thus the risk of contamination from PPCP's is relatively low.

In order to help protect our environment, please refer to the following guidelines:

- Don't take prescription drugs and medicines unless you really need them.
- Only take medicines in prescribed therapeutic amounts.
- Don't take sample medications from your doctor unless you intend to use them.
- As with controlled substances, return unused or expired medicines to pharmacy if they will accept them.
- If pharmacy won't accept them, add a small amount of water to a solid drug, seal the container and dispose of in trash.
- Add kitty litter or sawdust to liquids and dispose of in trash
- The premise is that the trash will either go to a secure landfill or be incinerated.
- Do not flush drugs or medicines down the toilet or pour down the drain unless the accompanying patient information specifically instructs that it is safe to do so.

This is only a brief overview of a complex issue. Although to date, these substances have not been linked to harmful effects on humans, more research is needed. To find out more information, please click on the following link to the Environmental Protection Agencies Frequently Asked Questions regarding PPCP's <http://epa.gov/ppcp/faq.html> or the American Waterworks Association website www.drinktap.org

Manchester Police Offers a Permanent, Everyday Solution to Unwanted Prescription Drugs.

The Manchester Police Department has permanently installed a Prescription Drug Take Back Box in the lobby at 239 East Middle Turnpike. Due to the success of the National Drug Take Back initiatives by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Manchester Police Department has decided to take it a step further and make the drop box accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are giving the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes

of potentially dangerous, expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. “We wanted to provide a safe and secure location for folks to drop off these items, instead of having to wait for a specific event twice a year. We want to make this as simple as possible for everyone. Come in, drop off your medications, no questions asked and no paperwork for the public.” stated Officer Forish.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. Environmentalists have warned of increased levels of some chemicals originating with prescription drugs found in the nation’s water ways and in landfills. For that reason, simply throwing out the drugs or flushing them down the toilet is highly discouraged and both pose potential safety and health hazards.

The only thing we ask is that folks refrain from dropping off liquid medications, needles, lancets, pen needles, aerosol cans, infectious waste, IV bags, or thermometers. Pet medications are acceptable!

We are thankful for ERASE, Inc. of the East Hartford (East of the River Action for Substance Abuse Elimination) who provided the drop box, free of charge. They currently assist a 15-town region in reducing and preventing substance abuse and related behaviors.

For additional information, contact the Community Resource Officer at 860-645-5568