

Traces of medications and personal care products are now found in surface and ground waters. They enter our environment through several routes.

All medications whether taken orally or applied to the skin can be excreted or discharged into the sewage systems and ultimately reach surface or ground waters.

Another route for medications to find their way into our environment is through improper disposal.

The Macomb County Health Department is accepting unwanted medications for safe and secure disposal.

Please call the Macomb County Health Department's Hotline for the time and dates of the next collection.

(586) 466-7923



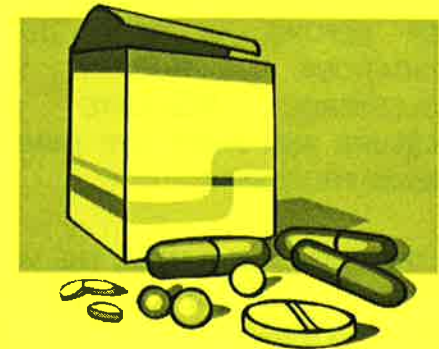
Macomb County Health Department
Environmental Health
Services Division

*For additional information:
MCHD Household Hazardous Waste
Hotline
(586) 466-7923
or visit our website
www.macombcountymi.gov/publichealth*

Sponsored by:
Macomb County Executive
Mark A. Hackel



Medication Disposal



Macomb County Health Department
Environmental Health
Services Division



The Problem:

Medications may become unwanted for a variety of reasons:

- Change in medications
- Change in dosage
- Non-use by patient
- Medication is outdated
- Patient has improved
- Patient has died

Unwanted medications are often stored in medicine cabinets until a disposal situation arises. Historically, medications were either:

1. Flushed down the toilet
2. Discarded into garbage

Both of these options have disadvantages. Discarding medications into the household garbage can lead to consumption by children or pets. Medications flushed down the toilet may not be completely removed by the sewage treatment process and residual may end up in ground or surface waters.

The Solution:

The Macomb County Health Department is accepting unwanted and outdated medications from Macomb County residents through the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program.

Please follow these guidelines:

1. Remove unwanted pills (e.g. antibiotics, over the counter and prescription medications) from bottles and combine in a nondescript container such as a zip lock bag. Please do not bring pill bottles.
2. Call the MCHD HHW Hotline for the time, date and location of the next collection.
(586) 466-7923
3. Deliver the bag(s) of medication to the collection location for safe and secure disposal.

PLEASE NOTE

No controlled substances will be accepted. Contact the Macomb County Sheriff's Department at (586) 469-5151 for the disposal of controlled substances.

- AN INCREASING POPULATION AND AGING POPULATION RESULTS IN GREATER DEMANDS ON OUR ENTIRE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM.
- AMERICANS ARE LIVING LONGER THAN EVER BEFORE, IN PART, DUE TO MEDICATIONS THAT LOWER CHOLESTEROL, REGULATE BLOOD PRESSURE AND FIGHT OFF NUMEROUS DISEASE PROCESSES.
- AS THE POPULATION AGES, THE VOLUME OF MEDICATIONS PRESCRIBED INCREASES DRAMATICALLY.
- PATIENTS OVER THE AGE OF 75 AVERAGE 12 NEW PRESCRIPTIONS PER YEAR.
- IT IS ESTIMATED THAT FOUR OF EVERY FIVE PATIENTS LEAVE A DOCTOR'S OFFICE WITH A PRESCRIPTION.