

UNUSED MEDICINE

How to properly dispose of unused medications



KENTUCKY
AMERICAN WATER



A Message to Our Customers on Pharmaceuticals

At Kentucky American Water, we take water quality and safety seriously. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets water quality standards intended to protect public health and Kentucky American Water treats and delivers water that meets or surpasses all EPA drinking water standards.

Currently, the EPA does not require water utilities to monitor for pharmaceuticals in water, nor have they set treatment standards for pharmaceuticals in drinking water. However, research studies have shown that the treatment processes used by Kentucky American Water can be effective for the removal of many of these compounds.

For more than a decade, our parent company, American Water, has been active in supporting and participating in research to better understand the occurrence, treatment and health effects of trace levels of pharmaceuticals in water. American Water has been and will continue to work in close collaboration with the EPA to set drinking water standards that protect the quality of our water supply.

Our facilities are also active in watershed and wellhead protection programs to prevent pollutants from even entering our water supplies. We also offer useful tips on how to properly dispose of unused medications to our customers who are interested.

How to Properly Dispose of Unused Medications

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy recommends the following tips for proper disposal of medications:

- Don't flush prescription drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so.
- Take advantage of community pharmaceutical take-back programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. Call your municipal or county government's office and ask if a drug take-back program is available in your community.
- If a drug take-back or collection program is not available:
 1. Take unused, unneeded or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers.
 2. Mix prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter.
 3. Put the mixture in disposable, non-descript container with a lid, such as an empty milk carton, margarine tub or sealable bag.
 4. Conceal or remove any personal information from the original prescription drug container, including Rx number, by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
 5. Place the sealed container with the mixture, and the empty drug containers, in the trash.

For more information

Visit these websites for additional tips and information on pharmaceuticals and drinking water:

- www.kentuckyamwater.com
- www.awwa.org
- www.epa.gov/ppcp/faq.html
- toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc
- http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/prescriptn_drugs/index.html

WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT'S WHAT WE DO.