## Think B4U Flush

## **Managing Unwanted Pharmaceuticals**

**What are Pharmaceuticals**? Pharmaceuticals are prescribed or over-the-counter drugs and medications.



**The Problem?** Unused drugs kept in medicine cabinets, tossed in the garbage, or flushed down the toilet or drain can be serious threats to human and environmental health. In one recent national study, scientists

analyzed streams for 95 different organic wastewater contaminants, including pharmaceutical compounds.

Wastewater treatment plants usually do not treat or only partially treat pharmaceuticals, so chemical compounds from pharmaceuticals pass through treatment plants to rivers or groundwater. Risks posed to aquatic organisms by long-term exposure to various pharmaceutical compounds are unknown.

To avoid accidental poisoning of both children and adults; prevent intentional misuse of unwanted prescription drugs, especially by teenagers; and protect water quality and fish. Take your unused, outdated or unwanted drugs to a nearby Drug Take Back Facility which is located at the City of Wilsonville's Public Works Building Located at 30,000 SW Town Center Loop East, Wilsonville, Oregon 97070.

For more information, go to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality website at <u>http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/hhw/pharmaceuticals.htm</u>

## **Toss Those Wipes – Block the Sewer**

Anything fibrous like rags or disposable wipes should not go down the drain. They often don't make it to the wastewater treatment plan and clog pumping stations and can cause serious sewer overflows – possibly even into your home.



Frequently these rags and wipes tangle together causing blockages that costs ratepayers thousands of dollars each year.

What should you do? Use rags and wipes that can be recycled and reused. Toss cloth, rags and those 'disposable' wipes in the trash.

For more information please contact by phone or email:

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## If It's Not Toilet Paper - Don't Flush