



CITY OF BEND

# Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal

## Pharmaceutical Waste & Groundwater



*At-home disposal of pharmaceuticals.*

### Proper Disposal of Unwanted Medications

Unwanted or expired drugs can pose a serious environmental risk if disposed of improperly. Flushing unwanted medications down the toilet or throwing them out in the trash can lead to groundwater contamination. This is because wastewater treatment plants are usually not equipped to treat pharmaceuticals, which means the chemical compounds of the drugs can pass through treatment plant and into our groundwater. Leftover drugs in the household also carry severe health risks, and can lead to accidental poisonings, addiction, or abuse.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Studies have found that medicines flushed down the drain can contaminate our lakes and streams, harm fish and other aquatic wildlife, and end up in our drinking water. Some medications, such as hormones and antidepressants, include endocrine-disrupting compounds that interfere with the reproduction and normal growth of many aquatic species, such as frogs and fish.

Scientists with the United State Geological Society conducted a study of more than 130 rivers, streams, and other waterways in the U.S. In 80% of the water they tested , they found the following prescription drugs: antibiotics, anti-depressants, seizure medication, cancer treatments, pain killers, tranquilizers, and birth control, pills. Although the City of Bend has found no such chemicals in its groundwater, we are choosing to take a proactive approach to eliminating a potential environmental threat.

**In a study of 130 rivers, streams, and waterways in the U.S. , 80% tested positive for various prescription drugs.**



# Myths & Facts

**Myth:** It's fine to flush prescription drugs down the toilet or pour them down the drain.

**Fact:** Many pharmaceuticals are getting past our wastewater treatment plants and getting into our ground water.

**Myth:** Unwanted or expired medications can safely be thrown in the trash

**Fact:** Even if expired, pharmaceuticals remain chemically active and can be released into the environment through landfill liquid.

**Keep our water clean. Know you are doing the right thing. Bring all unwanted medications to approved drop off sites or use Deterra pouches for at-home disposal.**



## Safely Dispose of Unused Prescription Medications

The Deterra Drug Deactivation and Disposal System is a simple, environmentally safe way to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs.



### WHAT IS THE DETERRA DRUG DEACTIVATION AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM?

Deterra is a safe medication disposal pouch that allows you to safely deactivate and dispose of unneeded pills, patches, liquids, creams and films at home.

### HOW DO I USE THE DETERRA POUCH?



1

#### PLACE MEDICATION IN POUCH.

Open pouch and place unused medications inside.



2

#### FILL HALFWAY WITH WATER.

Fill halfway with warm water and wait 30 seconds. Foaming may occur.



3

#### SEAL, SHAKE & DISPOSE IN TRASH.

Seal tightly, gently shake and dispose of in normal trash.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit [bendoregon.gov/IPP](https://www.bendoregon.gov/IPP).



### Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact the Utility Department at [utilities@bendoregon.gov](mailto:utilities@bendoregon.gov) or 541-317-3000, ext. 2. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

