Water Environment Federation®
the water quality people®

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HS1802 **WATER'S WORTH IT™** 7/2012

Drug-Free Drains

You can help protect our water from pharmaceuticals and personal care products!

Learn More:

You can help

protect our water from pharmaceuticals and personal care products!

Every day the average adult uses nine personal care products that contain 126 unique compounds that could end up in our water. In addition to traces of products like shampoo, toothpaste, sunscreen, and cosmetics, minute amounts of prescription and over-the-counter drugs also make their way into water. They should be limited or prevented from entering our environment.

Due to our increased use of these products and greater analytical sensitivity, very tiny amounts of compounds and drugs can be detected in conventional treatment plant outflow and end up in creeks, streams, and rivers. While there is no evidence these traces pose a risk to human health, scientists can sometimes find interference with aquatic organisms, and studies continue. Meanwhile, it's prudent to control what we put into water, and everyone's help is important.

In addition to following product recommendations for use and disposal and decreasing use when possible, you can help keep water clean by simply not flushing unused medication down the toilet! Controlling what goes down the drain is the easiest and most effective way to protect the environment, and you can start today!

Help keep drains drug-free!

For more information on how to dispose of household products, please visit:

http://www.wef.org/AboutWater/ForThePublic/FactSheets/FactSheetDocuments/HouseholdWaste.htm