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This bulletin is for informational purposes only. For additional information, please contact the City of Kelowna's Waste Water Treatment Facility

MEDICATIONS & WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Unused and expired medicines have traditionally been flushed down sink drains, toilets or discarded in the trash. This practice was acceptable until it was discovered that several types of drugs and chemicals are not removed by wastewater treatment processes.

The City of Kelowna wastewater treatment facility is effective at removing many drugs and chemicals; however some medications discharged to the sewer can pass through untreated to Okanagan Lake. Even medications disposed of in the landfill can enter the leachate collection system and eventually end up in Okanagan Lake.

The improper disposal of medicines poses a significant health, safety and environmental hazard because Okanagan Lake is Kelowna's main source of drinking water.

PROPER DISPOSAL OF EXPIRED OR UNWANTED MEDICATION

Expired or unused medications can be taken to one of many local pharmacies that are participating in the Medications Return Program (MRP). This service is provided free of charge by the Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association.

To find out a list of pharmacies participating in the MRP visit to medicationsreturn.ca or contact the BC Recycling Council or the BC recycling hotline at 1-800-667-4321.

ACCEPTED MEDICATIONS

Items which are accepted for disposal under the Medications Return Program include:

- ▶ All prescription drugs
- ▶ All nonprescription medicines
- ▶ Herbal products
- ▶ Mineral supplements
- ▶ Vitamin supplements
- ▶ Throat lozenges

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