



Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs)

An Emerging Issue



Overview

- Emerging issue of concern
- PPCPs are a diverse group of chemicals, including:
 - Human/veterinary drugs
 - Dietary supplements
 - Other consumer products
 - Inert/inactive ingredients in these products



Overview

- 1999 U.S. Geological Survey study
 - Surface and groundwater supplies throughout U.S.
 - Check for presence of pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, sterols, hormones
 - At least one chemical found in 80% of streams and 93% of groundwater



Did You Know?

- How PPCPs enter the environment?
 - Excretion by humans and domestic animals
 - Flushing unneeded or expired PPCPs down a toilet or drain
 - Bathing and swimming
 - Discharge from municipal sewage systems or private septic systems
 - Others



Did You Know?

- No drinking water standard exists for PPCPs
- Technology and funding lagging
- Male fish population affected
- No Nebraska or federal laws regarding PPCP disposal



Emerging Issues

- Disposal methods and options
- State and federal regulations
- Research is ongoing
 - Impact over time
 - Impact of mixtures of chemicals
 - Acute or chronic impacts
 - Vulnerable populations

What You Can Do - Pharmaceuticals



- NEVER flush down a toilet or drain (especially with septic systems)
- Find out if there are take-back programs available in your area
- If no other disposal methods exist, alter medication and place in the trash
 - Add something to medication – kitty litter or flour to liquids, glue or water to pills – to make them unusable and/or unpalatable
 - Package in obscure container, remove patient info



What You Can Do – Personal Care Products

- Use products completely and according to label directions
- Dispose of by land filling in their original containers
- Avoid products with unnecessary ingredients
- Consider using products with environmentally-friendly ingredients



Contacts

Insert local contact information

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