

How Can You Help Keep the Environment Clean?

Having a clean environment is important to everyone. It impacts both our health and our economy.

Making sure that only rain goes to storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment.

Best management practices or BMP's are procedures that help to prevent pollutants like oil, gasoline and antifreeze from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep storm water clean by using the BMP's in this brochure.

What Else Can You Do?

Questions about what you can do to solve this or other storm water issues in our community? Call us at 480-350-4311.

To report illicit discharges to storm drains, call (480) 350-2811 anytime, or go online to:
<http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>

Municipal Utilities Department
Environmental Services Section
P.O. Box 5002
Tempe, AZ 85280



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Environmentally Friendly Disposal of Medication



Environmentally Friendly Disposal of Medication

Proper Disposal of Unwanted or Expired Medications and Over-The-Counter Drugs.

Do Not Flush!

At one time we thought the best way to dispose of old or leftover medications was to flush them down the toilet. That way children and animals would not come in contact with them and risk being poisoned. But that is no longer an acceptable means of disposing of these products. Scientists are warning people, "Do Not Flush!"



Antibiotics, hormones, painkillers, antidepressants, chemicals, and array of other medications are now finding their way into the nation's waterways. Long-term effects of these drugs are not known, but environmental scientists worry that even small amounts may cause harm to the environment, and may end up in our drinking water supply. The most recent study of pharmaceuticals in surface waters was performed by the USGS in 1999 and 2000. The survey of 139 streams throughout the US showed 80 per cent of samples analyzed contained one or more pharmaceuticals detected, albeit at very low concentrations.

- Take all of a prescribed medicine unless there is a good reason not to, such as a harmful side effect.
- Wastewater treatment plants are designed to remove conventional pollutants such as suspended solids and biodegradable organic materials; they are not designed to remove synthetic pollutants such as pharmaceuticals. Placement in the trash is better than the toilet.
- Tempe PD hosts an annual drug "take back" event call 480-350-4311 for information. Additionally, two secure prescription/over the counter medication disposal kiosks are available for community members year round. The kiosks are sponsored by the Tempe Police in partnership with the Tempe Coalition and Attorney General's Office, and are located at PD Headquarters, 120 E. 5th St, and the

Apache Substation, 1855 E. Apache Blvd., available during City business hours (M-F 8am-5pm).

- Bring medications in original containers.
- Glass, syringes, injectables, or sharps of any kind cannot be accepted.
- No need to remove labels w/ personal info - disposables will be incinerated by law enforcement. Disposal is anonymous.
- In Tempe it is also acceptable to take over the counter medications to the Tempe Household Products Collection Center at 1320 East University Drive. Or call (480) 858-2223.

While the actions of an individual household might contribute small amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or community can have a serious cumulative effect.

