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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