

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Dispose of Unused Pharmaceuticals Properly to Protect Environment

BISMARCK, N.D. – Disposal of unused or unwanted pharmaceuticals is an emerging and complex environmental issue in North Dakota. These products include a wide variety of items such as:

- Over-the-counter and prescription medications
- Controlled substances
- Pet medications (often similar or identical to those prescribed to people)
- Agricultural pharmaceuticals

Waste materials can be in the form of solid pills and capsules, creams, liquids or aerosols. Improper disposal of pharmaceuticals by dumping, pouring or flushing can cause them to enter surface waters where they can trigger adverse environmental impacts, including endocrine disruption in aquatic life.

If not disposed of properly, pharmaceuticals can also pose a threat to human health by creating the risk of unintentional overdose or illegal abuse.

The North Dakota Department of Health - Division of Waste Management has developed guidelines for properly managing and disposing of unused or unwanted pharmaceuticals. Please visit <https://deq.nd.gov/WM/MedicationPharmaceuticalWaste/> for more information, or contact Christine Roob, Environmental Health Section, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.499.5207.

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