

# WasteWater

## ***Pharmaceuticals in Wastewater***

Scientists recently have found hormones, steroids and other chemicals in rivers, leading to calls for new ways to dispose of drugs. Sewage treatment plants are not set up to remove the chemicals. If you flush them down the toilet, they will end up at the treatment plant and they'll end up in the rivers. Although showing up in just trace amounts, the chemicals are thought to be linked to mixed genders and other genetic problems in fish.

For those who aren't able to drop off their drugs at a hazardous material drop of station, the State Water Resources Control Board recommends disposing of them by blocking out any personal information on the container, adding water - as well as coffee grounds, kitty litter or cayenne pepper - and sealing the container with tape before tossing it in the trash. For more on drop off stations and related information visit:

*<http://nodrugsdownthedrain.org/index.html>*

## SAFE DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD MEDICATIONS

- **FACT: PHARMACEUTICALS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS (PPCPs) POLLUTE OUR WATERS**
- **DO NOT FLUSH MEDICATIONS DOWN THE TOILET OR DRAINS**
- **CHECK WITH YOUR PHARMACY FOR A DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM**
- **CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION AGENCY (LISTED IN THE PHONE BOOK)**
- **FOLLOW STEPS 1 THROUGH 5 LISTED BELOW:**



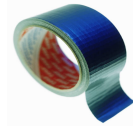
**1)** Use original medicine container and block out personal information on label.



**2)** Add a little water to pills or capsules. Then add coffee grounds, or kitty litter, or cayenne pepper.



**3)** Place lid on medicine container and seal with duct tape or packing tape.



**4)** Place medicine container in packaging that hides contents such as a cardboard box.



**5)** Place packaging in your trash container shortly before pick-up time.



*Please help keep  
our water drug free!*