



# Water Reclamation Plant

City of Rochester, Minnesota

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July 19, 2018

## **NOTICE:**

### **Please do your part to protect our waterways and the environment from pharmaceuticals**

Pharmaceuticals typically enter the sewer system through human excretion and flushing unused drugs. Most wastewater treatment facilities, including the City of Rochester Water Reclamation Plant's advanced treatment system cannot treat all of the chemicals found in pharmaceuticals and, as a result, they end up in Minnesota's waterways. Once in the fresh water system these chemicals can mimic hormones and disrupt normal development in fish even at low concentrations. This, in turn, can have a negative impact on the entire aquatic environment. In fact, in a recent study the US Geological Survey found that 73 % of the small mouth bass they tested in the Mississippi River near Lake City, MN had characteristics of both sexes.

The City of Rochester Water Reclamation Plant is working to educate the community on how to properly dispose of unused pharmaceuticals.

Pharmaceuticals should be either:

- Mixed with undesirable substances (such as kitty litter or coffee grounds) and put in a sealed container in the trash.
- Brought to the Prescription Drug Collection Box at the Olmsted County Government Center (151 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Rochester). The box is located in the vestibule of the Adult Detention Center and is accessible 24/7, no questions asked.
- Dropped off at the designated location specified for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day that happens each April. Area organizations, including Mayo Clinic, Olmsted Medical Center and the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office, have partnered together every April to host a community drop-off location in Rochester. Visit <https://takebackday.dea.gov> to learn more.

### **Pharmaceuticals should NEVER be flushed down the toilet.**

Please contact us if you have any questions. We appreciate your cooperation.

Thank you,

#### **Chelsea Wiegand**

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# Don't Flush Pharmaceuticals!

## Why shouldn't you flush pharmaceuticals?

- Wastewater treatment facilities cannot treat all chemicals found in pharmaceuticals.
- Chemicals from pharmaceuticals end up in lakes, rivers, and streams causing:
  - Harm to the aquatic environment
  - Feminizing of fish
  - Concerns about impacts on humans



## How should you dispose of pharmaceuticals?

- Mix pharmaceuticals with undesirables (coffee grounds or kitty litter) and put them in sealable container prior to throwing in the trash.



- Bring them to the Prescription Drug Collection Box at the Olmsted County Government Center (151 - 4th Street SE, Rochester). The box is located in the vestibule of the Adult Detention Center and is accessible 24/7.



**City of Rochester Water Reclamation Plant**

507-328-2650 • [rochestermn.gov/wastewater](http://rochestermn.gov/wastewater)

