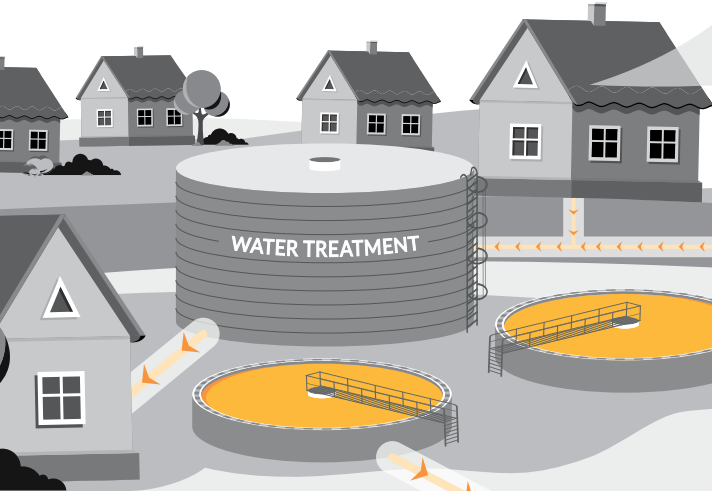


Impact of Pharmaceutical Waste on the Environment



92% of healthcare providers believe consumers don't know how to properly dispose of leftover or unused prescriptions.¹



WATER TREATMENT

The Environmental Protection Agency's final rule, which bans the flushing/sewering of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals, is designed to reduce the amount of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals entering our waterways by up to 2,3000 tons annually.

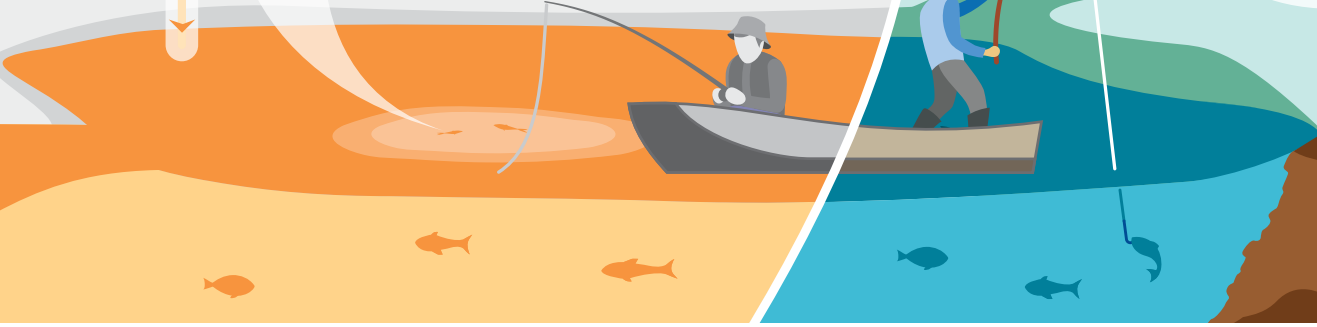
Since pharmaceutical components are not effectively removed from typical waste treatment systems, flushing allows dangerous chemicals to enter waterways like our rivers and streams.



Researchers have identified traces of pharmaceuticals in many of the world's rivers.⁵



Fish that are exposed to a complex combination of drugs in their environment suffer adverse effects, including infertility, susceptibility to predation, reduced growth, weakening of defense systems, and organ or hormonal changes.⁴



Safe and Sustainable Disposal Methods

Stericycle provides pharmaceutical waste management programs to healthcare providers for the safe and environmentally friendly disposal of drugs.



The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) collected more than 1.2 million pounds of medications at more than 4,600 sites during their two National Prescription Drug Take Back Days in 2023.³



The DEA allows consumer medications to be sent for destruction via mail back through a DEA-registered provider. Stericycle has distributed over one million Seal&Send™ medication mail back envelopes that hold up to 8oz. each and are prepaid for easy and anonymous disposal.

In 2023, Stericycle treated 55 million pounds of pharmaceutical waste prior to disposal, helping to ensure that active pharmaceutical ingredients do not end up in waterways.⁶

Sources:

1. Healthcare Workplace Safety Report, Stericycle data, 2023
2. Drug Enforcement Agency, <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2024/01/24/dea-encourages-communities-make-every-day-take-back-day>
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5. World Economic Forum, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/pharmaceutical-pollution-health-drugs-rivers/>
6. Stericycle Annual Data, 2023