



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD partners with U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency to collect unwanted drugs on April 28

To prevent or reduce accidental contamination of streams, rivers and lakes, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is joining the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) national "Take-Back" initiative.

This is the fourth nationally organized prescription drug take back day, and the MWRD has participated in each of them. A nationwide total of 500 tons of unwanted or expired medications were turned in for safe and proper disposal during the three previous collections.

"Our wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceutical products if they are poured down a drain or flushed down a toilet," said MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre. "The chemicals can work their way into lakes or streams. This special collection opportunity gives the community an environmentally-friendly opportunity to properly dispose of expired or unwanted medications."

DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart said "The amount of prescription drugs turned in by the American public during the past three Take-Back Day events speaks volumes about the need to develop a convenient way to rid homes of unwanted or expired prescription drugs. DEA remains hard at work to establish just such a drug disposal process and will continue to offer take-back opportunities until the proper regulations are in place."

Bring any unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications to any of the following MWRD facilities on **Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:**

### Stickney Water Reclamation Plant

6001 W. Pershing Road, Cicero

### North Side Water Reclamation Plant

3500 Howard Street, Skokie

### Calumet Water Reclamation Plant

400 East 130th Street, Chicago

### Pharmaceutical Disposal Tips

Prescription drugs that are more than one year old should be disposed of properly.

Turn in any over-the-counter medicines without an expiration date that are more than six months old.

Keep pharmaceuticals in their original containers with labels to identify contents.

Use a permanent marker to cross out your name and other personal information.

Additional information about pharmaceutical and household hazardous waste disposal can be found at [http://www.dea.gov/diversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.dea.gov/diversion/usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/).

*Our water environment...Take it personally*

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*