



KEEP UNUSED MEDICATIONS AND ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING COMPOUNDS (EDCs) OUT OF WATERSHEDS AND DRINKING WATER

- Pharmaceuticals have now been found in the drinking water of many cities and wastewater treatment plant discharges are a major source
- While the human health effects of many of these materials are not yet well known, the harmful environmental effects of EDCs are well documented
- Along with drugs, personal care products, some detergents and other materials discharged from wastewater treatment plants can also be EDCs
- The endocrine system is a complex network of glands and hormones that regulates many essential biological functions and processes in living systems
- Extremely low levels of EDCs can interfere with the normal function of the endocrine systems of living organisms, especially the reproductive systems
- EDCs have been found in local streams below sewage outfalls and can come from residential, institutional and businesses wastewater
- Some species of fish, mollusks, reptiles, mammals, and birds have already experienced substantial reproductive problems from EDCs in the water
- Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to effectively treat all EDCs and EPA and many others are investigating the effects of EDCs on humans
- Cumulative stream loadings of EDCs, especially from a large number of individual households, have the potential to cause significant harmful effects
- All sewer users, domestic and non-domestic, are requested to voluntarily reduce sewer discharges of drugs & EDCs to better protect our watersheds
- Please follow the Federal Drug Disposal Guidelines for both prescription and non-prescription medications

WAY (Watershed Alliance of York, Inc.) is a public-private partnership of stakeholders committed to being innovative leaders encouraging watershed-based planning, restoration and protection, in York County and beyond. Anyone interested in WAY's programs to help reduce commercial, industrial and household pollutant loadings to local watersheds, please visit our web site at www.watershedsyork.org and contact our citizen volunteer Board of Directors.