

Drug Collection Program

Salt Lake City Public
Utilities



Drug Disposal Issues

- Impact of disposal on the environment
 - Detects in waterways
 - Fish abnormalities
 - WastewaterTreatability issues

Aquatic Organisms-captive to continual, lifecycle chemical exposures

- Aquatic exposure is Key: Any chemical introduced via sewage to the aquatic realm can lead to continual, multigenerational exposure for aquatic organisms
- “Persistent chemicals” even if half life is short, the supply is continually replenished

Environmental Concerns: Wastewater

- Boulder Creek Watershed, Colorado, found a diverse set of pharmaceuticals and organic wastewater chemicals in water samples.
- Even in the pristine upper part of the watershed, scientists found pharmaceuticals and attributed their occurrence to home septic systems and other sources on the landscape.

Environmental Concerns: Irrigation

The use of reclaimed water can result in the presence and accumulation of pharmaceuticals in soil. The potential effects of reclaimed water on ground water and streams deserves study.

Consumer Issues

- Recycling to surface and ground water supplies
- Low level exposure to compounds
- Impact of lack of disposal options
 - High volume of unusable drugs in the homes
 - Increased potential for usage errors
 - Drug abuse

STOP

Don't Flush Your Old Medication!

Bring it in for disposal!



Protect the environment!
Prevent overdoses and errors!
Keep drugs away from children!

Salt Lake City drop off containers are located at:

Pioneer Police Station

1040 West 700 South

Public Safety Complex

315 East 200 South



Program Initiation May 2007



- Introduced May 2007
- Advertisement
 - City mail
 - City Council
 - Newspaper coverage
- Response was immediate

Problems Encountered

- Unwanted items
 - A vial of blood
 - Syringes
 - Fragile glass vials broken in the unit
 - Trash
- Bulk disposals from clinics and Doctor's offices
- Overall cost, mostly manpower, for the Police

Requests for Disposal

- Facilities with outdated medication
- Residential centers with clients drug waste
- Residents from outside the SLC area
- Desire for more local disposal sites

Success?

- May-October collection weight 397.6 pounds
- Additional discussion on bulk disposals
- Additional locations installed
 - Herriman
 - Cottonwood Heights
 - Riverton