



Illinois American Water Encourages Customers To Participate In National Prescription Drug Take Back Day On April 24, 2021

April 21 2021 10:31 AM

BELLEVILLE – Illinois American Water is encouraging customers to participate in the Drug Enforcement Agency’s (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day this coming Saturday, April 24, 2021. Residents are encouraged to drop off their unwanted medications at approved collection sites so they can be incinerated, which is the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) recommended approach for pharmaceutical disposal. Flushing medications down the toilet and throwing them in the trash are discouraged.

Rachel Bretz, director of water quality and environmental compliance for Illinois American Water, explains, “We are encouraging residents to take advantage of the drug take-back events because they help protect our environment and waterways. The event is a great opportunity for residents to safely drop off any unused, unwanted or expired medications.”

Participating Illinois Take Back Day collection sites can be located here <https://tinyurl.com/4e6kp35h>

Illinois residents who are unable to participate Saturday are encouraged to use local, permanent community pharmaceutical disposal programs to properly dispose of their unwanted medications. Through partnership and collaboration with local pharmacies, environmental stewards, police departments and government officials, Illinois American Water has helped implement permanent pharmaceutical disposal programs across the state. These programs and others can be found on Illinois EPA’s Beyond the Bin map here <https://tinyurl.com/6ycvzcxj>. The map is searchable by location.

The pharmaceutical disposal programs were created through a model developed by Pontiac Township High School students and their teacher Paul Ritter. The program, P2D2, has been recognized as a model for all pharmaceutical disposal programs. Through P2D2's efforts, millions of unwanted medications have been collected and disposed of properly.