Hormone medications, antidepressants, antibiotics, and personal care products are found in waterways nationwide, a recent report from the U.S. Geological Survey concludes. Potential impacts from these products are being studied worldwide.

Even though water used in your home is treated before it’s discharged to the Bay, modern treatment facilities are not designed to remove medications. You can minimize impacts by simply disposing of your unwanted or expired medication with other hazardous wastes at the City of Palo Alto’s Household Hazardous Waste Events usually held on the first Saturday of the month (unless there is a holiday) and on occasional Fridays.

Dispose of expired medications at Household Hazardous Waste Events—never flush unwanted medication down the toilet or sink!

...so please DON’T do this!

Medical Waste
For medical waste disposal contact the City of Palo Alto at (650) 496 – 6980. Drop off is located at 2380 Embarcadero Road.

Hazardous Waste
For Hazardous Waste Disposal contact the Santa Clara County Hazardous Waste Program at (408) 299 – 7300 to schedule a drop off appointment.

For more information about emerging contaminants in waterways, see http://toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc.html; call (650) 494-7629, or email, cleanbay@cityofpaloalto.org