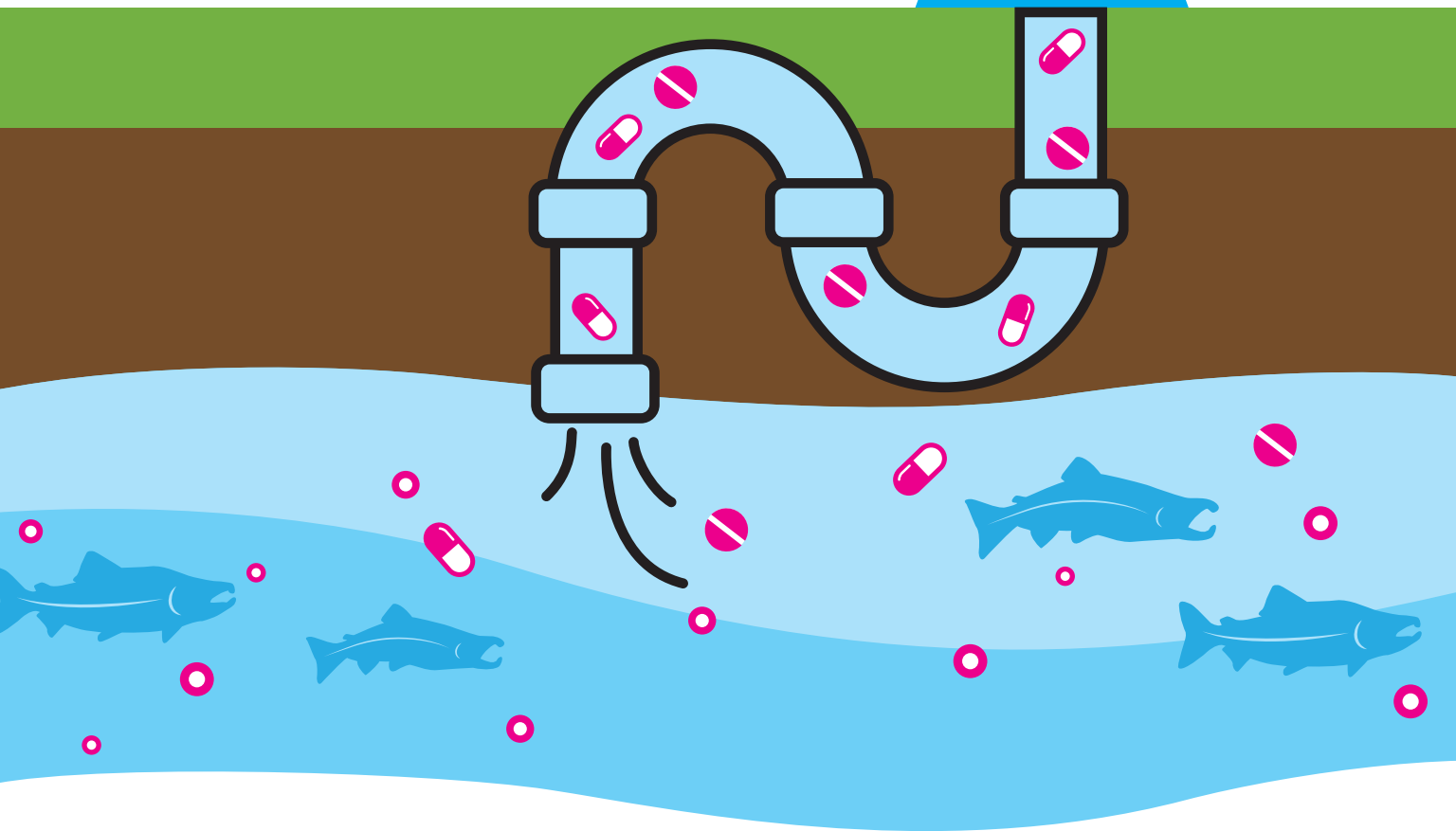


# Don't Dump Meds, Keep Columbia Clean

A growing body of science shows pharmaceuticals are reaching the Columbia River. How? Pharmaceuticals enter the Columbia through human excretion, when people flush drugs down the toilet, and from livestock operations.<sup>1</sup>



## Easy tips to keep your meds out of the Columbia.

**Don't Flush!** Think wastewater treatment plants solve the problem? Nope. Unfortunately many pharmaceuticals pass through water treatment.<sup>2</sup>

**Mail Your Meds.** Live in Washington? Residents can request a [free, prepaid envelope](#). Put the unused medication in the envelope and mail the package as if it were a regular package.

**Find a Dropbox.** [Click here](#) for a list of dropbox locations in Columbia River communities.

### Why it Matters

Pharmaceuticals can affect the health and behavior of wildlife, including insects, fish, birds, and more.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> EPA, [Chemicals of Emerging Concern in the Columbia River](#).

<sup>2</sup> USGS, [Water Science School, Pharmaceuticals in Water](#).

<sup>3</sup> *Id*

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