

Water pollution facts (sheet 2)

Poster
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Waste from livestock pollutes our water. When it rains, water runs over fields and pastures and can carry harmful bacteria from livestock waste to streams and provides unwanted fertilizer in streams

Just 1 litre of oil can cover the surface of a 100 square metres of water

Nutrients in animal waste cause algal blooms, which use up oxygen in the water. This cannot support any aquatic life. The Gulf of Mexico had a dead zone measuring around 16,760 square kilometres (2016)

Diseases caused by the ingestion of water contaminated with pathogenic bacteria, viruses or parasites include:

- cholera
- typhoid
- dysentery and other diarrhoeal diseases

Lawn clippings and yard waste in ravines and ponds can become unwanted fertiliser for streams. Too much plant growth in streams can use up all the oxygen and kill fish and aquatic life

We all live in a watershed. What you do on your property affects streams, even if you don't live on a stream. A watershed is an area of land which drains to the lowest point, usually a stream or bay

Oil and antifreeze from leaking cars pollutes. When it rains, water runs over the ground and picks up oil, antifreeze, and other pollutants then carries them to streams and bays

A cruise ship carrying two to three thousand passengers can generate 1,000 tonnes of waste per day, broken down as follows:

- 550,000–800,000 litres of grey water from showers and sinks
- 100,000 – 115,000 litres of 'black water' (sewage)
- 13,500 – 26,000 litres of oily bilge water
- 7,000 – 10,500 kilograms of rubbish and solid waste
- 60 – 130 kilograms of toxic waste from onboard dry-cleaning and photo processing water

You would need a large road tanker full of water (approx 10,000 litres) to neutralise 1 litre of cement slurry. Dilution is not the solution, as it only extends the deadly effects further downstream

There are approximately one million bacteria in one gram of poo!