

Water pollution facts (sheet 1)

Poster
4G

70% of industrial wastes in developing countries are disposed of, untreated into waters where they contaminate existing water supplies

More than 90% of household sewage in China is released into rivers and lakes without treatment

Lime is a major component of cement. When it is dissolved in water, it produces an alkaline solution that burns and kills any animals or plants with which it comes into contact

40% of America's rivers are too polluted for fishing, swimming or aquatic life

The King River is Australia's most polluted river, suffering from a severe acidic condition related to mining operations

Each year, plastic waste in water and coastal areas kills up to:

- 100,000 marine mammals
- 1 million sea birds and
- countless fish

More people die from unsafe water annually than from all forms of violence, including war

Over 70% of oil pollution at sea comes from routine shipping and from oil people pour down drains on land

Even products labelled 'biodegradable' or environmentally friendly' can suffocate fish by reducing or removing the water's oxygen used in biochemical processes

At any given time, half the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients with water-borne diseases

The chemicals found in one cigarette butt can leach out and contaminate approximately 7.5 litres of water within one hour. This contaminated water is lethal to small crustaceans and other aquatic life