

WATER POLLUTION



Water covers over 70% of the earth's surface. It is very important resource for the people and the environment. Water Pollution affects drinking water, rivers, lakes and oceans all over the world.

Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies and occurs when pollutants like particles and chemicals are discharged directly or indirectly into water bodies. Pollutants get into water usually by human causes or factors.

Any change or modification in the physical, chemical and biological properties of water that will have a detrimental consequence on living things is water on living things is water pollution.

Causes of water pollution

➤ **Industrial waste**

The wastes that are emptied into the water contain various chemicals like sulphur, Asbestos lead and mercury and harmful substances that disturb the water contents and prove disastrous for the marine birds and animals.

➤ **Oil pollution**

Petroleum often pollutes water in the form of oil. Oil spills from ships and super tankers, and from off shore oil drilling operations causes pollution. Oil and petrol that leaks from cars and trucks, washes off roads into waterways through storm water drains.

➤ **Sewage and other organic pollutants**

Materials such as leaves, grass, and animal wastes enters into water, it rots in it creating dirt. The wastes from homes are also connected to the water bodies through drains.

➤ **Chemicals**

The chemicals from factories, construction sites, mining operations, and homes enter the stream and rivers and cause great destruction.

➤ **Litters**

When people throw litters like paper, plastics, glass, cans, wrappers, cigarettes butts they get washed by the rain into rivers and other waterways. They get collected, look dirty and even harm many animals.

➤ **Underground storages and leakages.**

Many liquid products are stored in metal and steel tubes, overtime they rust and burst and began to leak and the liquid in them ends up in nearby water bodies.

➤ **Acid Rain**

When rain brings down the acids to the ground, they get washed into the water bodies. The result is that, water bodies also get contaminated.

➤ **Human activities**

People bathe, wash their clothes and even wash their animals in these water bodies making it dirty. They even throw things into it.



Effects

There are various effects of water pollution.

➤ **Spread of disease:**

Drinking polluted water can cause cholera or typhoid infections, along with diarrhoea.

➤ **Affects body organs:**

The consumption of highly contaminated water can cause injury to the heart and kidneys.

➤ **Harms the food chain:**

Toxins within water can harm aquatic organisms, thus breaking a link in the food chain.

➤ **Causes algae in water:**

Urea, animal manure and vegetable peelings are food for algae. Algae grow according to how much waste is in a water source. Bacteria feed off the algae, decreasing the amount of oxygen in the water. The decreased oxygen causes harm to other organisms living in the water.

➤ **Flooding:**

The erosion of soil into waterways causes flooding, especially with heavy rainfall.

➤ **Harms animals:**

Birds that get into oil-contaminated water die from exposure to cold water and air due to feather damage. Other animals are affected when they eat dead fish in contaminated streams.

Prevention

- This might sound simplistic, but decreasing water consumption is one of the keys to minimizing water pollution. By reducing the amount of water usage, will reduce the amount of water that flows into sewage treatment systems.
- Don't use household products that contain chemicals. Instead, use green products, like biodegradable soap and all-natural toiletries. To clean your house, stop using bleach and chemical cleaners and use vinegar instead.
- . Natural pesticides can be used that include insecticidal soap and pyrethrum. Natural fertilizers include wood ash, grass clippings, and animal manure.
- Avoid littering in rivers, lakes, and oceans. Make sure that you dispose of the litter in an appropriate waste disposal area.
- Make sure to dispose of toxic products, such as paints, solvents, and polishes, in the proper area. Don't pour them down the drain. Better yet, avoid toxic products altogether and use environmental friendly products instead.

