

Wastewater

Wastewater contains pollutants

Wastewater is water containing wastes from residential, commercial, and industrial processes. This is water we dispose of from our homes, offices, and industries.

Wastewater may contain waste oils, pesticides, fertilizers washed off the land, debris from streets and human and animal waste or sewage. Wastewater from a typical household includes toilet wastes, used water from sinks, baths, showers, washing machines, etc. that flows into drains or is flushed down the toilet.

Wastewater also includes storm runoff, or rain water that collects pollutants that wash off roads, parking lots, and rooftops that can be harmful to our rivers.

Wastewater affects our environment

Dirty water that we flush down our toilets, sinks and drains, and some of it is not so dirty, goes into the nearest waterway, river or beach. However, untreated wastewater when released into waterways may be toxic to fishes, plant, animal and human life by:

- Altering the habitat harming the breeding grounds of fishes leading to a decline in certain species.
- Allowing fertilizers to enter the waterways which then promotes excessive plant growth blocking our waterways and lowering oxygen supply to fish and other water species.
- Polluting our beaches so that we can no longer enjoy swimming, picnics and other fun activities.
- Harming our health from water borne diseases and consumption of contaminated fish and shellfish.

We can Reduce Wastewater at Home

Reducing the amount of water that we use will in turn reduce the amount of wastewater that we produce, so we could:

- Thawing foods on the lowest shelf of the fridge overnight rather than in a container of water.
- Using a container with water instead of running water to rinse your razor while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Turn off faucets while soaping your skin when taking a shower.
- Use a filled sink to wash dishes rather than running the tap and reuse washing water to water plants.



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