

Pollution and its Effect on our Water

Pollutant	Sources	Impacts
Sediment	Construction sites; eroding slopes; winter sand and salt application; vehicle/boat washing; agricultural sites.	Destruction of aquatic life; transportation of oils, nutrients and other pollutants increased
Nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen)	Fertilizers; malfunctioning septic systems; livestock, bird & pet waste; vehicle/boat washing; grey water; decaying grass and leaves; sewer overflows; leaking trash containers.	High potential for toxic algal blooms and hypoxia/anoxia (low levels of dissolved oxygen which can kill aquatic organisms).
Hydrocarbons	Vehicle and equipment leaks; vehicle and equipment emissions; pesticides; fuel spills; equipment cleaning; improper fuel storage & disposal.	Toxic at low levels.
Heavy Metals (<i>Cu, Pb, Cd, Hg, As, Cr</i>)	Vehicle brake and tire wear; vehicle/equipment exhaust; batteries; galvanized metal; paint and wood preservatives; batteries; fuels; pesticides; cleaners.	Toxic at low levels; drinking water contamination.
Pathogens	Livestock, bird and pet wastes; malfunctioning septic systems; sewer overflows.	Risk to human health leading to closure of swimming areas; drinking water contamination, E. Coli production
Toxic Chemicals	Pesticides; dioxins; PCBs, commercial cleaners, illegal discharges and leaks.	Toxic at low levels.
Debris/Litter	Improper waste disposal and storage; fishing gear; leaking rubbish containers; cigarette butts; littering.	Potential risk to human and aquatic life.