

Water pollution: impacts

- Sources
 - Leaks, run-off, flood, fire, vandalism.
 - To water course or sewer
 - Exhausts, including aircraft contrails
- Impacts
 - Water life, fisheries, human health
 - Short or long time scale
 - Clean-up expensive, time consuming
 - Global warming
 - Publicity

Water pollution: Jargon

- Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)
 - Property of a substance
 - Amount of oxygen that would be removed from the water as a result of decomposition of a pollutant

Water pollution: prevention

- Maintenance, risk assessment
- Training and awareness
- Emergency systems, and equipment
- Environment Agency Oil Care Campaign
- Legislation, e.g. Oil Storage Regulations
- Environmental Permitting (& Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control)
- Notices

Water consumption

- Abstraction from rivers or boreholes
 - Results in lower water level / table
 - Risk of pollution during treatment
 - Energy in capturing, storing and transport
- Invisible imports (“virtual water consumption”)
 - Product and food manufacture utilise large amounts of water
 - Often from areas with water shortage
 - 125 ml cup of coffee uses 140 litres water

The water used to meet our needs

- Average Brit uses 150 litres per day on washing and drinking
- But 30 times this is used to grow our food and produce our textiles
- Total: 4,645 litres of water a day
- UK is sixth largest net importer of water in the world (WWF), importing 62% of our water, much from poor arid areas.
- [Global interactive map](#)