

## WATERLOOF PRIMARY SCHOOL

Natural Science &amp; Technology Grade 6 Term 2 2020

**SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF WATER POLLUTION WITH EXAMPLES p92-95**

Water pollution is a serious problem in any community as all life depends on water. Pollution is defined as the presence of a substance in the environment that has harmful or poisonous effects. It is obvious that the presence of such substances in water is definitely not wanted!! These substances have been divided into 3 groups

1. those that are insoluble (cannot dissolve in water)
2. those that are soluble (can dissolve in water) and
3. those that are living things that cause sickness or disease.

In each case all these pollutants are the direct result of human activity and disrespect for our environment. These items should not be able to get into our water at all. PREVENTION IS FAR BETTER THAN CURE.

**Insoluble water pollutants**

Definition	Examples	Source	Damage
These pollutants are reasonably easy to identify and in most cases you can see them in the water.	Oil	Ships have oil spills	Sea life eg birds cant fly, eat or keep warm
	Plastic bags	Rubbish disposal	Turtles eat them, die
	Rubber tyres	“	Slow to biodegrade
	Tins, glass	“	Humans get sick as solid waste contains germs
	Solid toilet waste.	Faecal pollution from animals and humans	

**Soluble water pollutants**

Definition	Examples	Source	Damage
These pollutants are not at all easy to identify because you cannot see them. Often you only know that they are there when the effects of them on the environment is noticed – eg lots of fish die in the water	Soaps (PO4)	Human activity Factory waste	Removes oxygen from water – water animals die Poisonous reaction by all living things Drinking water pollution Food pollution
	Fertilizers (KNP)		
	Pesticides		
	Dissolved metals eg lead		
	Acids		
	Chemicals		
	Paint		

### Living things that are pollutants

Definition	Examples	Source	Damage
These pollutants are not at all easy to identify because you cannot see them. Often you only know that they are there when people or animals get sick or diseased. They are microscopically small.	Bacteria Fungi Viruses  Parasites	Humans Animals  Small water snails carry the parasite	Drinking water is polluted and diseases are spread eg Cholera or diarrhoea  Bilharzia