

There are many different types of pollution that can be found in the UK's rivers. The following examples will help you easily identify the correct type of water pollution to help with your reporting on Pollution Watch UK.

Now is the time to take action. Help return our waters to a healthy standard.

1 Agricultural Run-off



How to identify:

- The area where you live, or are passing by, has farmland that is visibly flooded.
- Farmland dredges have been created or expanded. This is where trench-like paths are dug around the farmland to encourage better water flow around the area.
- Consistent heavy rain in farmland area causing small streams of water to appear in the fields.

2 Chemical Pollution



How to identify:

- Large pipes that appear to discharge non-natural looking liquids can signal that a nearby factory or plant is releasing harmful chemicals into the water.
- If the pipes are underwater, there may be surface water pollution where the chemicals are visible.
- If you've been in contact with the water and there is a chemical or metallic smell or taste.
- Chemical barrels washed up, floating in water or close to riverbank.

3 Sewage Pollution



How to identify:

- Sewage pipes discharging raw sewage directly into the water (this is easily identified by the odour and appearance).
- Non-biodegradable items that are commonly flushed down the toilet such as wet wipes, sanitary products, and certain plastics.
- Visible sewage in water or strong odour of sewage when close to a natural water source.
- Milky appearance to the water with visible scum, foam or bubbles on the surface.

4 Sewage Fungus



How to identify:

- Thin, white/grey, mucus-like film on the surface of the water (*less easy to identify*).
- Jelly-like mass, grey/brown, found in slow moving waters (*relatively easy to identify*).
- Thick, yellow/orange, cotton wool/foam-like substance afloat the water's surface (*very easy to identify*).

5 Silt



How to identify:

- A large brown cloud-like area moving down the waterway.
- The body of water has been completely engulfed by the silt, creating a muddy-brown river or stream.
- Individual silt-polluted rivers or streams running off into larger bodies of water, creating a contrast of muddy brown and 'sea blue' between the silt water and freshwater.

6 Mine Water



How to identify:

- Bright or dull shade of red/yellow/orange, loss of transparency in water due to density of metals and minerals in water.
- Appearance of water filled with paint-like liquid.
- Rotten egg smell near body of water.

7 Livestock



How to identify:

- Flooding of farmland, specifically areas high in livestock such as cows, sheep, chickens and pigs.
- Visible manure nearby to waters edge or travelling in water.
- Strong odour of animal manure near to water.
- Livestock allowed to roam into the waterway.

8 Algae



How to identify:

- Green, blue, red, or brown water.
- Appearance of foamy or scum-like substance floating on water's surface.
- Paint-like substance covering a large span of water.
- Smaller or closed-off bodies of water entirely discoloured with the aforementioned colours.
- Visible algal blooms (*appearance similar to weeds*) overly-abundant in river, stream or lake.

9 Litter & Fly Tipping



How to identify:

- Large amounts of household/industrial waste on the side of the road or fields.
- Non-organic items (plastic/appliances) found on riverbank or floating down stream/river.
- Chemical drums found near riverbank or nearby to water.

Report pollution today by downloading the app or visiting the website at:
www.pollutionwatch.org.uk

