Unsafe Water

Water is essential for economic growth, food and energy production, ecological sustainability, and even human survival. Water is also crucial to climate change adaptation as a vital link between people and the environment.

Freshwater is also a matter of rights. As the world's population rises, the need to balance competing economic demands on water resources develops, ensuring that communities have enough to meet their needs. Women and children, in particular, require clean, private sanitary facilities to handle menstruation and maternity in dignity and safety.

"Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all," says Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6). The goals involve every area of the water cycle and sanitation systems, and their success will help advance several other SDGs, including health, education, economics, and the environment.

Contaminated water and a lack of basic sanitation are jeopardising efforts in the world's poorest countries to overcome severe poverty and disease.

In 2017, 2 billion people worldwide lacked access to basic sanitation like toilets and latrines. Six hundred seventy-three million individuals still practised open defecation. According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, at least 1.2 billion people globally drink water that has not been treated to prevent faecal contamination. Even more drinkable water is distributed through a system that lacks proper sanitary protection.

A primary cause of child mortality is contaminated water and poor sanitation. Inadequate water supply, inadequate sanitation, water polluted with infectious disease agents, and poor hygiene habits are linked to childhood diarrhoea. Diarrhoea is projected to kill 1.5 million children each year, most of whom are under the age of five and live in underdeveloped nations.

When dangerous substances—often chemicals or microorganisms—contaminate a stream, river, lake, ocean, aquifer, or other body of water, the water quality deteriorates, and the water becomes toxic to humans or the environment.

Water is very susceptible to pollution. Water, also known as a "universal solvent," can dissolve more chemicals than any other liquid. We have Kool-Aid and vivid blue waterfalls because of it. It's also the reason why water is so easily contaminated. Toxic compounds from farms, cities, and factories quickly dissolve and combine with it, polluting the water.

### What Are the Effects of Water Pollution?

**In terms of human health**

To put it clearly, contamination of water kills. According to research published in The Lancet in 2015, it was responsible for 1.8 million fatalities. Water that has been contaminated can also make you sick. Every year, nearly 1 billion people become ill due to contaminated water. Low-income groups are particularly vulnerable because their dwellings are frequently located near polluting enterprises.

**Concerning the environment**

Healthy ecosystems rely on a complex web of animals, plants, microbes, and fungus to exist, interacting with one another, either directly or indirectly. Any harm to these organisms can set off a chain reaction that puts entire aquatic ecosystems at risk.

### What Can You Do to Prevent Water Pollution?

1. Reduce your use of plastic and reuse or recycle it whenever possible.
2. To avoid going down the toilet, properly dispose of chemical cleansers, oils, and non-biodegradable substances.
3. Maintain your vehicle to avoid oil, antifreeze, or coolant leaks.
4. Consider landscaping that lowers runoff, and avoid using pesticides and herbicides if you have a yard.
5. Don't flush your outdated meds down the toilet! To prevent them from entering local waterways, dispose of them in the trash.
6. Anything you pour into storm drains will likely not be treated before dumping into nearby waterways.