

# HOW CLEAN IS TOO CLEAN?

Overuse of disinfectants is causing problems for waste treatment plants.

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Many wastewater treatments plants use different bacteria to help break down sewage. Now, the overuse of household antimicrobial products could be damaging the effectiveness of these bacteria.

*Image from pixabay*

**Answer the following questions in full sentences:**

1. What is this news story about?

**Scientists are looking at the effects of increasing use of antimicrobial chemicals on the waste water treatment process.**

2. What was the conclusion of the experiment?

**At high concentrations of triclosan (the antimicrobial chemical), bacteria were much less effective at breaking down the harmful substances in waste.**

3. How could the amount of triclosan in treatment plants be lowered?

**By reducing the amount of triclosan that goes down the drain.**

4. Why may these findings be particularly relevant today?

**People are using more antimicrobial chemicals than ever, so there will be more triclosan entering the sewage system.**

5. Write down the meanings of any words **in bold** in the article.

**Germ** – microorganisms that cause disease

**Fertiliser** – chemicals added to soil that help plants to grow

**Antimicrobial** – something that works against microorganisms

**Thwart** – prevent someone or something from doing something

**Concentrations** – the amount(s) of a substance in a given volume