

# meet the Pollutants



## pH

pH stands for 'potential of Hydrogen' and is used to measure how acidic or alkaline a substance is on a scale of 0-14. Freshwater and marine waterways become stressed if their pH levels fluctuate too much. This can have an impact on animals that live in these waterways as they struggle to tolerate changes to these pH levels.



## Nitron

Nitron, short for Nitrogen, is sneaky because it is an odourless, colourless and tasteless gas. Commonly used as an ingredient in soaps and fertilisers, Nitron is very harmful when it flows into waterways because it causes plants and algae to grow very fast, which clogs rivers and creeks and blocks light to deeper waters.



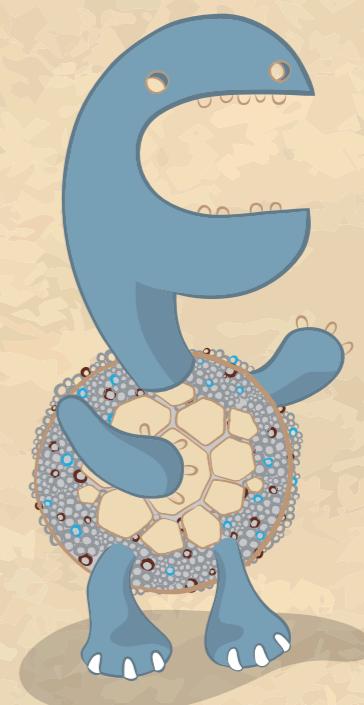
## Herby

While Herby, short for Herbicides, can help to destroy nasty weeds, it has lots of yucky side-effects. When Herby flows into drains, it pollutes our waterways, hurts our marine habitats and kills valuable native plants and trees.



## Oily

Oily, also known as Oil, is a menacing liquid which is black, slippery and gooey and deadly when set loose in our waterways. When Oily spills into our oceans, creeks and rivers, it strangles plants, chokes marine animals and leaves complete destruction in its wake.



## Nurdles

Nurdles are tiny plastic balls which are incredibly harmful to marine animals. Billions of Nurdles are melted every year to mould nearly all our plastic products, but many end up on our beaches. Nurdles release toxins into the environment and are easily eaten by turtles, fish and birds. Eventually, Nurdles cause them to die.



## Pho

Pho, short for Phosphorus, is a messy and sensitive nutrient, and too much of it can really upset our waterways. High levels of this pollutant (caused by human activities like land clearing, riverbank destruction and careless dumping of toxic materials) in our rivers and creeks means algae will grow faster than the waterway can handle.



## Fleece

Fleece is a man-made plastic material used to make jackets, mittens and blankets. It might sound cosy, but Fleece is horrible for our waterways because its tiny fibres are eaten by fish and other wildlife. Fleece then enters the food chain and is ultimately eaten by humans too.



## Pollies

Pollies, short for Gross Pollutants, are found at your local rubbish dump, and even waterway, and are often surrounded by scavenging birds that occasionally eat inedible objects. Marine animals also fall victim to our waste crisis as they become trapped in old fishing nets or mistake plastic products for food. You never know where your rubbish or unwanted goods may end up so be sure to throw them out responsibly.



## Micro

Micro, short for Microorganisms, travel in groups of billions with one single mission: to make people sick and contagious. Micro can spread diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid and Hepatitis A. To defeat them, make sure you wash your hands and use tissues when you're sick.



## Heavy Metals

Heavy Metals is absolutely toxic to our waterways. Made up of nasty chemicals like mercury, lead, arsenic and copper, Heavy Metals is found in mining and industrial sites. When Heavy Metals is washed into drains and spills into our creeks and rivers, it poisons the water and can make humans sick if they're exposed to it.



## Poppy

This persistent offender is found in fertilisers and pesticides and is made up of organic matter that can't break down. Poppy, short for Persistent Organic Pollutants, is infamous for spreading far and wide and causing negative effects on human health, and can spread through the air we breathe, the food we eat and the things we touch.



## Muddy

Muddy, also known as Sediment, is a sludgy mess that really bogs things up. When it escapes construction sites and backyards, it flows down the drain and into our rivers and creek, where it smothers precious plants and chokes marine animals.



## Soapy

Soapy, also known as Surfactants, is an ingredient found in some bathroom, dishwasher and kitchen soaps that can be really harmful to our waterways and marine life. To defeat Soapy, remember to always buy and use eco-friendly soaps.



## Soley

Painting might be fun, but lots of paints contain Soley, short for Solvents, a toxic chemical that kills fish and other animals when washed into our waterways. If you're doing some painting, make sure you clean up properly and chuck out any leftover paint responsibly, or alternatively, use natural paints.



## P-FOS

P-FOS, short for Perfluoroctane Sulfonate, is a very dangerous man-made chemical known for causing cancer, slowing down brain development and making babies sick. P-FOS is found in fire extinguishers, engine coolant and on non-stick fry pans.

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