

# POLLUTION PREVENTION:

## Guidance for landowners



We need your help to improve the quality of our streams, rivers and beaches to make them cleaner and safer for people and wildlife. Your actions could be polluting your local waterways, and a few small changes in how you manage your land and animals would make a significant difference to the environment.

Pollution is not always visible to the naked eye. Streams, rivers and groundwater used to supply drinking water, are polluted and damaged by excessive amounts of manure, pesticides, and soil runoff from fields. It is in your best interest to stop these valuable resources draining away from your land.

If you are responsible for a serious pollution incident, you may face prosecution and its associated costs, and you will be liable to fines from the Environment Agency to cover the cost of clean-up operations and time spent dealing with the incident.

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### Animal waste storage

The waste produced from horses, cattle and other livestock is a valuable commodity when used as a fertiliser, but when it is carried into water it can be harmful to both the environment and human health. When animal waste from your farmyard is washed away by heavy rain it can pollute your local river or groundwater.

### Here are some simple remedies you can put into practice

Ensure guttering is well maintained and install a water butt to reduce the amount of rainwater flowing across the yard and other paved surfaces.



Keep animal waste in a covered storage place away from watercourses and drains.



Talk to other nearby landowners who may be able to use the manure on their land.



Use a suitably licensed facility to dispose of unwanted or excess manure and slurry, as well as used animal bedding.





## Watering and feeding

Horses, cattle and other livestock should not have direct open access to watercourses because they will cause serious pollution by:

- Trampling and eroding banks.
- Defecating in or near to the water.

## To prevent pollution you should:

- Keep watercourses fenced off.
- Install drinking troughs away from the water's edge.
- Place feeding stations away from the water's edge.

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## Pest and weed control

Pesticides are useful tools for controlling insects, weeds and other pests on your land but the chemicals contained in these products can be harmful to our wildlife on land and in water.

## Here are some top tips for the storage, application and disposal of pesticides:

- Always store pesticides in their original containers with approved product labels.
- Keep containers in a covered secure storage place and on a tray to catch any leaks or spills.
- Always read and make sure you understand the instructions on the label before use.
- Do not apply any pesticides directly into watercourses.
- Avoid using slug pellets as they can be a source of secondary poisoning to wildlife, including those species that eat your pesky slugs e.g. toads, frogs, birds and hedgehogs.
- Never dispose of pesticides down the drain – use a registered waste carrier or your local household waste site to dispose of chemicals, oils and other hazardous items.

## Additional notes on pesticide use:

- The law states that anyone who uses or applies pesticides in Agriculture, Horticulture, and Forestry, Industry or Amenity workplaces must possess a valid Pesticide Certificate in order to comply with regulations.
- The exemption to the UK pesticide law known as “Grandfather Rights” is no longer valid (ended 26th November 2015).

