

Farming: Where possible try and prevent animals from crossing, drinking and standing in rivers and streams. We are helping farmers to understand their soils and the problems associated with poor soil structure causing run-off, erosion, pollution and flooding. We can also signpost farmers to further sources of help, advice and funding to reduce these problems.

Pigeons or seagulls: Birds congregating in greater numbers can increase the amount of bird fouling that gets washed into the sea. We are discouraging roosting in areas near rivers and streams and asking that people do not feed pigeons or seagulls

Dog fouling: Pick up after your dog. This can have a significant effect on bathing water quality.

You can help us by letting us know about any pollution problems in your area.

Contact us about overflowing sewage man holes, discoloured or smelly stream water, unusual pipes connecting to the river or incorrect plumbing.

As well as investigating pollution, we are monitor bathing water quality during the bathing season (May-September). Find out more online:

www.gov.uk/quality-of-local-bathing-water

Report any pollution you see whilst out and about as soon as possible. 0800 80 70 60

Useful contacts:

Sedgemoor District Council
www.sedgemoor.gov.uk
0845 7888400

Wessex Water
www.wessexwater.co.uk

The phone number for reporting pollution is: 0800 80 70 60

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
NEEDS
YOU



Bathing water quality standards are getting stricter in 2015.

Burnham is at risk of failing these tighter standards

We all need to work together to solve the pollution issues.



Environment
Agency

Protecting your bathing water

Although bathing water quality has improved considerably over the last 20 years, there is still more work to be done. Despite the considerable efforts from the agricultural sector and water companies, approximately 25 (out of 193 in the South West) bathing waters will struggle to meet the new, higher standards that come into force in 2015

We're aiming for your bathing waters to pass the new standards in 2015 and you can help.

We have been working for a number of years in and around your bathing water 'catchment' (area of land that drains into beach) detecting and eradicating pollution.

However, there is still more work to do if we are to raise the standards even further.

Sources of pollution

How YOU can help

Know your drains:

Some pollution is caused by incorrect connections to surface water drains rather than foul sewage, resulting in dirty water from homes & businesses draining into rivers, streams and then into the sea, find more info on:

www.connectright.org.uk

Cooking fats:

Cooking fats, oils and greases can block drains and cause sewage to overflow into roads, streams and rivers. Don't tip them down the sink, use a 'Fat Trap'. Visit Surfers Against Sewage for training poster if you are in the food trade

www.sas.org.uk

Drains:

Think about what you put down external drains. Anything emptied down a drain in your driveway, or by the side of the road, for example, dirty car water, paints, and motor oils, will end up in the river, sea and on the beach.

Rivers:

The river and its banks should not be used to dump litter, dog mess or garden waste.



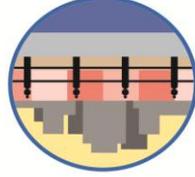
Pollution from sewage – bacteria from sewage can enter our waterways as a result of system failures or overflows or directly from sewage works



Water draining from farms and farmland – manure from livestock or poorly stored slurry can wash into rivers and streams resulting in faecal material entering the sea



Animals and birds on or near beaches – dog, bird and other animal faeces can affect bathing water as they often contain high levels of bacteria (much higher than treated human waste)



Water draining from populated areas - water draining from urban areas following heavy rain can contain pollution from a variety of sources, including animal and bird faeces



Domestic sewage – misconnected drains and poorly located and maintained septic tanks can pollute surface water systems

The phone number for reporting pollution is 0800 80 70 60, day or night