



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Science and Technology
EPA-823-E-05-002
March 2005

Healthy Waters start with **WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

Did you know that federal and state laws require streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands to meet certain standards of cleanliness? These are called *water quality standards*.

To find out more, visit: www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards

CLUES

ACROSS

- The U.S. _____ Protection Agency, also known as the US EPA, is the federal government office in charge of taking care of the environment.
- _____, the action of water washing away pieces of dirt and rock, is sped up when plants that hold soil in place are removed.
- Water _____ is a measure of how clean a stream's water is. It is poor for polluted streams and good for clean streams.
- Every living thing needs clean food, _____, and air to survive.
- The Clean Water Act is a _____ passed in 1972 that helps keep our waterways from being polluted.
- Like forest fires, only you can _____ water pollution.
- Looking at the number of fish and other organisms in a stream and how healthy they are helps scientists get an idea of how _____ the water is.
- Erosion causes the build up of _____, sometimes called silt, in the bottom of streams and lakes.
- The Clean Water Act, a law passed by _____, gives US EPA the power to make and enforce rules to protect water quality.

DOWN

- _____ is a branch of science that looks at the relationships between living things and their environment.
- A _____ is a natural stream of water larger than a brook or creek.
- A _____ is large body of water surrounded by land.
- The pesticides and _____ used on your lawn and garden can cause water pollution.
- Each of the 50 _____ has a government agency that helps keep water clean.
- _____ plants and animals live in the water.
- _____ is anything added to water that harms the things that live there.
- US EPA and states set limits on the amount of pollution allowed in water. Limiting water pollution helps keep the plants, animals, and fish that use the water _____.
- Swimming in polluted water can make you _____.

WORD LIST

Clean
Congress
Aquatic
Environmental
Erosion
Ecology

Water
States
Quality
Prevent
Sediment
Pollution

Healthy
Fertilizers
Sick
Law
River
Lake



WATER QUALITY STANDARDS are important because they tell us how clean we want our waters to be. Water quality standards are set by the government.

Water quality standards include:

- The uses of the water—for example, do we want to be able to swim in it or just use it to irrigate crops?
- The limits on the amount of pollution that can be in the water—for example, we do not want too much of a chemical.
- Controls to prevent the water from getting dirtier.

ACROSS: 1. Environmental 5. Erosion 8. Quality 9. Water 10. Law
11. Prevent 12. Clean 15. Sediment 16. Congress DOWN: 1. Ecology 2. River
3. Lake 4. Fertilizers 6. States 7. Aquatic 11. Pollution 13. Healthy 14. Sick