



Hazardous-waste disposal

Soil erosion

Livestock waste

Excessive fertilizer application

Deforestation

Crop dusting

Irrigation

Storm-water runoff

Chemical application to parks and lawns

Sewage-treatment plant

Marine waste

Mine-waste pond

Construction erosion

Industrial emission

Airborne pollutants may travel hundreds of miles before falling on a body of water. Sulfur dioxide reacts with other air pollutants and rain to form sulfuric acid, which can kill plankton and fish.

Septic system

Water table  
Saturated zone  
Water well

Strip-mining

Underground storage tank

Underground mining

# SOURCES OF WATER POLLUTION

The enemy was an easier target when the U. S. launched its war on water pollution in the 1970s: Factories and cities piped their untreated wastes into lakes and rivers. With such point-source pollutants partly curbed, the most critical remaining problems are proving far more difficult to control — nonpoint sources such as runoff from farms, cities, construction sites, and mines.

Limestone

Water-bearing sandstone

Road-salt runoff

Deep-well waste disposal

Landfill

Freshwater aquifer

Municipal-sewage discharge

States are responsible for monitoring and enforcing U. S. water-quality standards. Levels, and methods of data collection vary widely, leading to a lack of consistent and comparable data. Consequently, pollution cannot be accurately mapped nationwide.

Source: National Geographic

The 1972 Clean Water Act's goal that all U. S. waters be fishable and swimmable by 1983 remains unmet.

