Algae blooms

Stewardship

Eutrophication

Sedimentation

Organic materials

Inorganic materials

Contaminant

Freshwater

Parts per million (ppm)

Potable water

a rapid increase in the amount of algae in a body of water. They can cause the water surface to turn green.

man’s responsible interaction with the environment

the process by which bodies of water collect excess nutrients, which in turn cause excessive plant growth

the process by which suspended particles in a body of water settle to the bottom via gravity and collect.

living materials, such as plants and animals, or materials that once came from a living thing, like decomposing leaves.

materials were never alive. Examples are pure water, air, minerals, metals, and salts.

a substance that causes harm and renders water unfit for its intended use.

water that has a much lower solute concentration (less salty) than the ocean, or water containing **less than 1,000 parts per million** (ppm) of dissolved solids of any type.

is the number of "parts" by weight of a substance per million parts of water. This unit is commonly used to represent pollutant concentrations. One milligram per liter of water is approximately equal to a ppm.

water that is suitable for drinking. You can use it for bathing and cooking.

Salinity

Solute

Solvent

Turbidity

Water quality

Dissolved Oxygen

a quantitative (can be given by numbers) measure of the amount of dissolved salts in a given volume of water.

any solid material that is dissolved in a liquid (the solvent).

the liquid, usually water, in which solutes are dissolved; a substance that dissolves other substances, thus forming a solution.

the measure of cloudiness or opaqueness in the water. A measure of how clear water is. The more suspended solids there are in a water sample, the less transparent it is. Turbidity is considered a good measure of water quality. In drinking water, high turbidity is generally not considered a favorable sign because it can be associated with organic pollution that might include pathogenic materials. In surface bodies of water, high turbidity can lead to increased water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, and even physical impairment of aquatic organisms.

the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

oxygen that is dissolved in water. It is a measure of the amount of oxygen in water that is available for use by aquatic organisms. Dissolved oxygen is used by all forms of aquatic life; therefore, it is measured to assess the "health" of lakes and streams.

Bioindicators or macroinvertebrates

pH

Acidic

Basic

Nitrates

Phosphates

fish, insects, algae, plants and other aquatic life that provide accurate information about the health of freshwater, coastal and marine waters. They are easy for people to collect and identify. Many are sensitive to pollution in water, they are a good indicator of whether or not a body of water is livable. Good water quality is indicated by a variety of these organisms. Poor water quality is indicated by a few of one type of these organisms in one place.

Indication of how acidic or basic a substance is. It is important because it controls many chemical and biological processes. Measured in a scale from 1-14 and 7 is considered neutral.

Substance with a pH value less than 7. Examples are lemon juice, vinegar

Substances with a pH value greater than 7 Examples are baking soda and ammonia.

Nutrient needed by plants, but can pose a health threat to humans if found in drinking water. Source in surface water- runoff from fertilizers, septic tanks leakage of sewage, or erosion of natural deposits

Nutrient needed by plants, but can pose a health threat to humans if found in drinking water. Source in surface water-human and animal wastes, laundry, cleaning and industrial effluents.

Water reclamation

Water treatment

Clean Water Act of 1972

Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974

Point source pollution

Non-point source pollution

when wastewater or sewage can be treated and reused. This water is called gray water

the process of collecting and purifying water.

is the primary federal law for setting standards of what constitutes water pollution. It protects fish and wildlife that live in and around water sources.

was created to improve public health by regulating our drinking water.

is when we can identify one source for the pollution, like a chemical spill or a broken pipe.

is when we cannot identify the source of the pollution, like runoff or acid rain.