

Seven things that affect bathing water quality



... is for Blooms. Not just algae blooms but also seaweed. Algae can produce toxins and the Environment Agency suggests some seaweeds harbour bacteria



... is for Animals. Dog, bird and other animal poo can affect bathing water as it often contains high levels of bacteria (much higher than treated human waste)



... is for The body. Also known as 'bather shedding', this refers to the shedding of organic waste from swimmers' bodies and stirring of sediment caused by swimming and playing in water



... is for Homes. Domestic sewage from misconnected drains and poorly located and maintained septic tanks can pollute surface water systems



... is for Infrastructure. Combined sewer overflows, which protect homes and gardens from sewer flooding, are designed to operate at times of heavy rain under strict conditions



... is for Nitrates. Water draining from farms and farmland, manure from livestock or poorly stored slurry can wash into rivers and streams resulting in nasties entering the sea



... is for Gullies. Rainwater draining from streets and roads, and water draining from urban areas following heavy rain, can contain pollution from a variety of sources