

How you can improve Water Quality?

Citizen Science

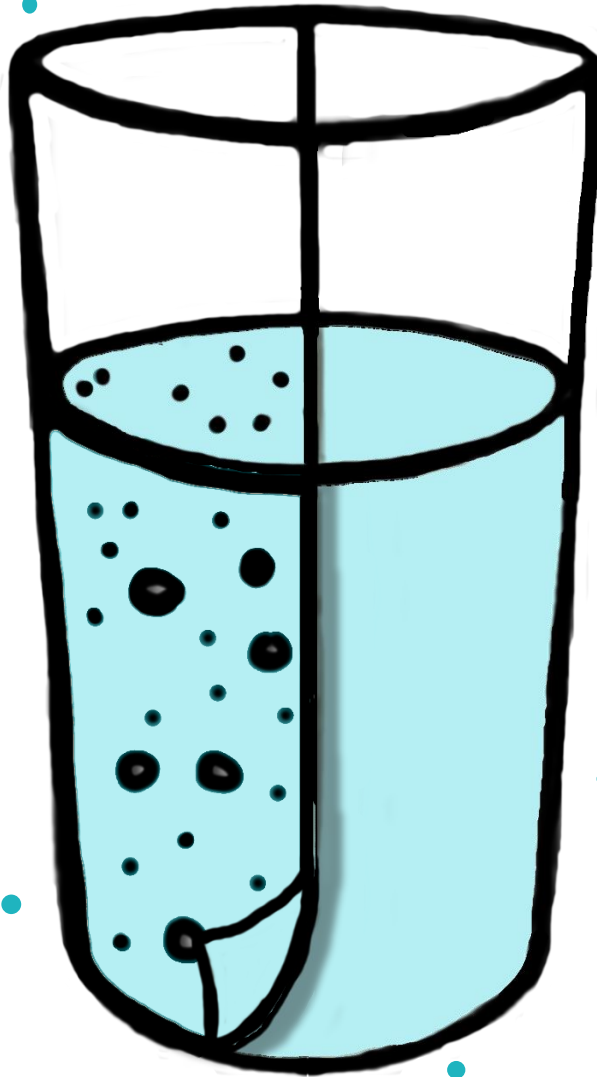
Already, we are seeing an army of Citizen Scientists heading to the riverside. By joining our Westcountry CSI programme you will receive the tools needed to detect signs of healthy – or unhealthy – rivers and streams. Then we can build up a picture of what's going on in our rivers and decide where to focus our attention.
www.wrt.org.uk/get-involved/

Check your septic tank

If a septic tank hasn't been emptied frequently enough, it can overflow during high rainfall and cause sewage to leak out into the river. Have a read of the government's best practice guidelines to see how your septic tank fares.

The 3 'P's

Only flush the three Ps down the loo: pee, poo and paper...anything else should probably be put in the bin so we won't have to see it floating down the river.



Fats & oils

Pouring excess fats down the sink can lead to blocked sewers and pollution of our rivers and beaches. An empty margarine tub can find new life as a 'fat trap.' Simply pour in any leftover fats and chuck in the bin when full.

Buy water friendly

So many of the products we use in our homes have the potential to add chemicals and nutrients to our rivers as they drain away. Look for environmental certificates and favour brands such as Ecover and Method to green up your cleaning.

Food waste

We've all been there, watching a cluster of leftover food disappear down the plughole. Sadly the decomposition of this organic matter in our rivers uses up the oxygen and so impacts the ecosystems. Put it in the compost or use your brown bins instead.

Shockingly, only 17 % (WFD, 2015) of our UK rivers are considered 'healthy' by the Environment Agency. Poor water quality is damaging aquatic ecosystems, reducing fish populations, adding to water treatment costs and reducing our enjoyment of these beautiful environments. Poor water quality; it's our biggest bugbear at the Westcountry Rivers Trust and there are plenty of ways you can lend a hand.