

main points

- Water pollution is the addition of some substance that causes the quality of water—taste, smell, appearance, cleanliness—to become poorer.
- Water pollution has been an important problem for over 150 years.
- Agriculture, industry, and oil transport are among the most important activities leading to water pollution.
- Chemical processes are important to pollution control efforts.
- Wastewater treatment involves primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment steps.