



Water Clarity

CAREER CONNECTION

If careers in pollution prevention and sustainable development interest you, consider the intersection between water and public health. Hydrologists research water properties, as well as how it circulates and is distributed. They also help countries facing water shortages develop plans to bring clean water to communities.

HOW CAN WE FILTER WATER?

Quick Background: Around the world, 780 million people lack access to basic water services, such as pipes and filtration systems.¹ Many collect drinking water from ponds, lakes, streams, and surface water sources. This water can contain all kinds of pollutants, including waste from farms, sewage runoff, oil pollution, and more, many of which can't be seen by the human eye.

1. Place some water in a bowl or pitcher and pollute it. (Sand, dirt, leaves, cooking oil, twigs, stones, and/or food scraps may all come in handy.)
2. Collect household materials that could be used to filter your water and remove pollutants.
3. Test these materials and develop a filtration system. Consider how to create layers using different materials. Multiple levels of filtration are better than one!

Remember: Not all pollution can be seen. Even if your end results appear clean, do *not* drink it!

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash_statistics.html