

Sewage Treatment

Abstract

Urban living generates waste that is usually treated to some degree and then discharged into water bodies. Too much waste can pose a risk to aquatic ecosystems and species. Pollutants can remain environmentally damaging even after passing through conventional sewage treatment. Municipal wastewater, including residential, commercial and industrial wastewater, is the major source of contaminants in the marine environment. In southern Canada, where most Canadians live, much of the municipal wastewater is treated by reducing some of the oxygen, suspended solids, phosphorus and sometimes ammonia and nitrogen to reduce the environmental impact on the receiving aquatic ecosystems.

Map Sources

Percentage of Population without Sewage Treatment

The levels of wastewater treatment were weighted according to population served by primary, secondary, tertiary or no treatment. Environment Canada. 1999. Municipal Water Use database.

Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)

Federal Government

Environment Canada. Freshwater Web Site

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/>

This web site gives access to the nature of water, water policy and legislation, the management of water, water and culture, and informational resources and services.