



## Chemical pollutants in the environment

Chemical pollutants related to human activities find their way into the natural environment via many routes: effluents from wastewater treatment plants connected to households, hospitals, and businesses; runoff from fields, roads, and airports; air and water emissions from factories and waste treatment sites. Chemical pollutants accumulate in soils, rivers and the deep ocean, exposing wildlife throughout the food chain to a cocktail of hundreds of substances.

- 1 Everyday chemicals from clothes, detergents, cosmetics etc. emitted in sewage water from households
- 2 Pharmaceuticals emitted in sewage water from hospitals
- 3 Chemical contaminants discharged into rivers and the sea from wastewater treatment plants
- 4 Pesticides, fertilisers and biosolids contaminate soil, rivers, and groundwater from agriculture

- 5 Veterinary drugs and rodenticides used in farms contaminate soil, water, and fauna
- 6 Car tire leachates contaminate soil and rivers from road runoff
- 7 Industrial chemicals emitted into the air and wastewater from industrial sites
- 8 PFAS contaminates soil and water from firefighting foam used at airfields

- 9 Synthetic chemicals contaminate soil and water from landfill leachates
- 10 Chemical pollutants emitted into the air from incinerators
- 11 Pesticides and veterinary drugs contaminate the sea from aquaculture farms
- 12 Process chemicals, such as lubricants, contaminate the sea from oil rigs
- 13 Chemical contaminants, such as surfactants and biocides, are released into the sea from shipping