

Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Chemicals *and* The Cycle of Environmental Pollution

Many chemicals we use to clean, sanitize, and disinfect are harmful to human health and the environment.

Many of these chemicals pollute the air that we breathe.

When we use these chemicals to clean, sanitize, and disinfect, they go down the drain and into the sewer.

Sewer lines take waste water to waste water treatment plants.

Waste water treatment plants treat waste water and divide it into waste water and sludge.

Not all chemicals are removed. Some are discharged into surface water, streams and ponds. Some chemicals like Triclosan are concentrated in sludge.

Sludge is used on agricultural fields where our food is grown.

Some chemicals are absorbed by food plants. When we eat the food, we can be exposed to the chemicals.

Some chemicals return to our homes, schools and workplaces in our tap water.

When we eat fish or shell fish that have concentrated chemicals in their tissue, the chemicals get into our bodies. These chemicals in our bodies can cause health problems.

Chemicals that are discharged by waste water treatment plants can contaminate aquatic animals.

