



Introduction

Pollution is defined as 'an undesirable change in physical, chemical and biological characteristics of air, water and land that may be harmful to living organisms. The Pollution Control Board, defined pollution as unfavourable alteration of our surrounding, largely as a by-product of human activities.

Pollutant

Pollutant is a substance which causes pollution. Unlimited exploitation of nature has disturbed the ecological balance between living and non-living components in the biosphere. The major environment pollutants are deposited matter, gases, metals, fluorides, acid droplets, agro chemicals, photo chemical accidents, radioactive waste and solid waste.

Classification of pollutants

Environment pollution is of many types like air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, soil pollution, marine pollution, etc. In developing countries major source of environment pollutions are air pollution, water pollution and soil pollution.

1. On the Basis of Nature

Depending upon the nature of the pollutants and their interaction with environment process, the pollution caused by different agents can be classified into the following categories:

Solid pollutants.

Liquid pollutants

Gaseous pollutants

Pollution from Waste without Weight: This type of pollution is also known as pollution by energy waste; Wastes without weight may be of the following types:

Radio-active Substance: Despite of all possible precautions in the functioning and maintenance of nuclear reactors, it is seen that minute quantity of radio-active waste escapes out into the environment.

Heat

Noise

2. On the Basis of Decomposition

Non-Degradable Pollutants: These are not broken down by the natural processes like action of microbes.

Degradable Pollutants or Bio-degradable Pollutants: These are natural organic substances which can be decomposed, removed or consumed and thus, reduced to acceptable levels either by natural processes like biological or microbial action or by some engineered systems, like sewage treatment plants.