



Leaving taps running wastes water and can wash dung and soils into drains, burns and rivers.

What can you do?

Decide which areas could pose the biggest risks to the water environment; it may be useful to sketch a map and highlight any problem areas.

Considering the issues and taking action to reduce risks will help to protect and improve Scotland's environment.

We all share and benefit from Scotland's water environment. Please help us to protect our water environment by encouraging equine owners to act responsibly. Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet.



Collecting water from roofs can supplement drinking water.

Further information

The British Horse Society Scotland

Equine welfare and stable management advice, and information on the UK's only livery approval scheme:
www.bhs.org.uk/scotland

Diffuse pollution regulations

Detailed information on regulations to prevent diffuse pollution from rural activities.
www.sepa.org.uk/wfd or www.sears.scotland.gov.uk/diffuse.pollution@sepa.org.uk

Farming and watercourse management good practice handbook

Information for agricultural advisers on the management of rivers and burns: www.sepa.org.uk/water/habitat_enhancement/best_practice_guidance.aspx

Guidance on management best practice

Practical advice for land owners on reducing the risk of pollution from rural activities: www.sepa.org.uk/bmp

NetRegs

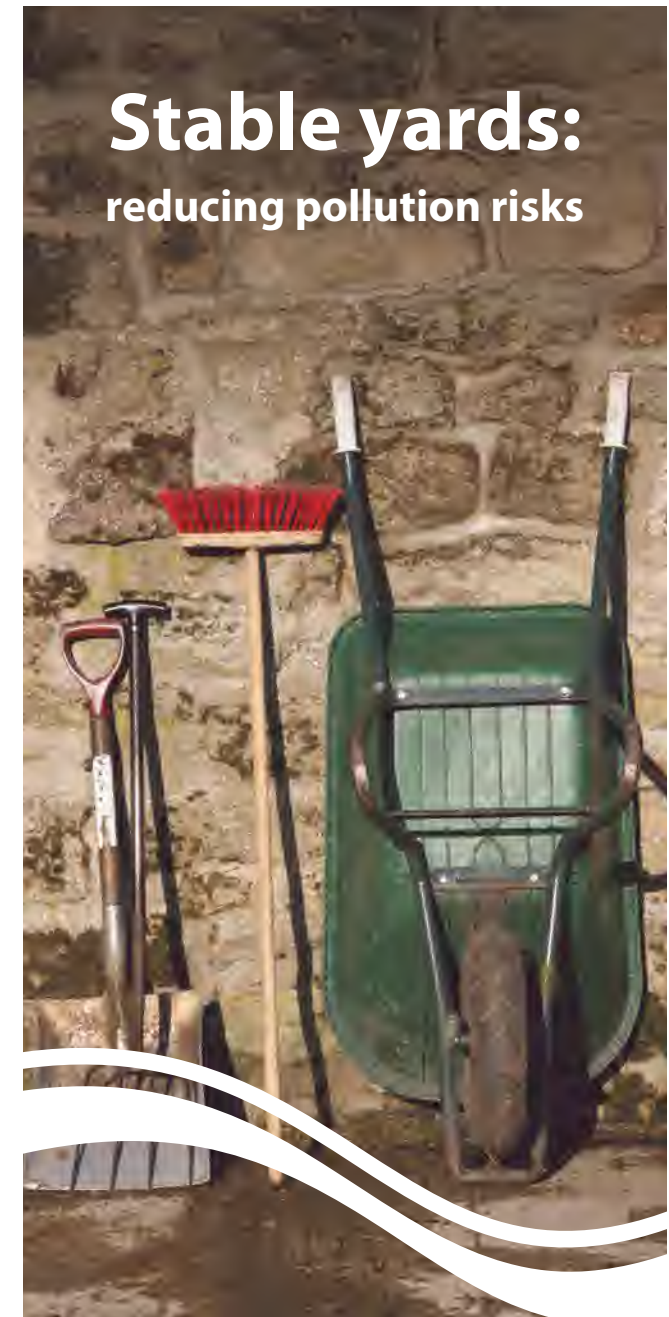
Up-to-date advice on environmental regulations for small and medium size businesses: www.netregs.gov.uk

Pollution Prevention Guidelines 24: stables, kennels and catteries

Guidance to reduce the risk of pollution from stables, kennels and catteries (due to be updated):
www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs/businesses/62733.aspx

Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 guidance

For an overview of the regulations plus information on general binding rules see the Controlled Activities Regulations: A Practical Guide at www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_publications.aspx



Stable yards: reducing pollution risks

This leaflet has been put together by SEPA and BHS Scotland to encourage equine businesses and those running stable yards or liveryies to protect water quality by reducing diffuse pollution risks.

What is diffuse pollution?

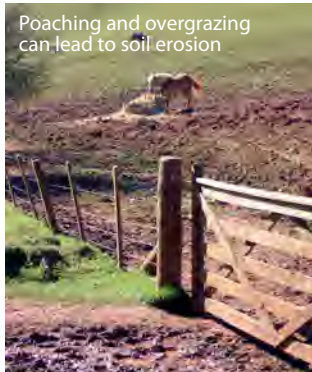
Diffuse pollution can come from several sources, for example nutrients, dung, chemicals or soil washed by rainfall into surrounding watercourses.

These inputs can all affect water quality leading to:

- excessive plant growth;
- reduced oxygen levels for fish and other wildlife;
- reduced habitat for invertebrates;
- reduced amenity value.

Many routine practices can increase pollution risk, including:

- poorly constructed or located yard dung heap;
- poor management of dung around yards and stables;
- poaching and soil erosion around gates and at drinking points;
- over-grazing leading to soil erosion;
- chemical drips and spills during horse grooming and other routine maintenance jobs.



Poaching and overgrazing can lead to soil erosion

Carefully choosing where to locate muck heaps and reducing areas of standing water, or mud, for example around pipes and hoses will not only reduce the pollution risk but will also reduce the number of places where insects such as midges can breed. These insects can carry diseases such as West Nile Fever and African Horse Sickness as well as causing problems such as sweet itch.



Poor management and siting of dung heaps can increase pollution risk

Diffuse pollution; potential problems and solutions

Problem	Solution
Dung heap too close to a watercourse	Move the dung heap to an alternative location, keeping a distance of at least 10m from watercourses or surrounding drains.
Dung heap run-off getting on to yards and into drains	Consider relocating the dung heap. Alternatively, re-grading the area to redirect flow or covering the dung heap may reduce risk of run-off and protect surrounding water quality.
Run-off from training or exercise areas getting into watercourses	Collect dung from these areas. It may be practical to route run-off directly to fields or to construct a filter strip.
Hosepipes left running or leaking	Fitting a trigger gun to hosepipes will save water and reduce pollution risk by minimising unnecessary runoff.
Vegetation and soil loss through poaching near to watercourses	Fence off watercourses to enable a buffer strip to develop, which will protect land from erosion by allowing soil to stabilise. Alternative drinking arrangements will need to be considered.
Vegetation and soil loss through heavy poaching in fields around gates and structures	Rotate the use of fields. Relocate feeders on a regular basis to protect soils from poaching and erosion. Feeders must be sited at least 10m away from watercourses.
Contaminated run-off from yards and stables getting into drains	Keep yards clean. Maintain gutters and down pipes to prevent clean rainwater getting on to dirty yards.