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# Agricultural Pollution

## WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR

The law has changed recently. Many once-routine agricultural practices are now made illegal in an effort to stop diffuse pollution of our rivers

The Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018 came into force in April 2018.

**However, the Environment Agency simply does not have the staff and resources it needs to police this new law. So, when you are walking in the countryside or near rivers, make a note of any breaches of the Regulations for volunteers to report to us and to Agency.**

There are some very specific offences:

Any spreading of organic manure (including slurry) or chemical fertiliser on waterlogged flooded, snow-covered or frozen land [regulation 3]

Any application of organic manure or chemical fertiliser on sloping land (greater than 12 degrees) or near to rivers, streams, wetlands or drains such that gives rise to a significant risk of agricultural diffuse pollution [regulation 4].

Applying chemical fertiliser near any inland waters or springs, wells and boreholes, within 2 metres [regulation 6].

Applying organic manure near inland freshwaters, within 10 metres [regulation 7].

Applying organic manure within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole [regulation 8].



### REPORT INCIDENTS AT:

[WWW.SALMON-TROUT.ORG](http://WWW.SALMON-TROUT.ORG)

[WWW.GOV.UK/REPORT-AN-ENVIRONMENTAL-INCIDENT](http://WWW.GOV.UK/REPORT-AN-ENVIRONMENTAL-INCIDENT)



Storing organic matter in a field heap within 10 metres of fresh waters or within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole [regulation 9].

Poaching of land by livestock within 5 metres of inland freshwaters – to be considered a breach the poaching has to be 20 or more metres long and 2 or more metres wide [regulation 10].

Positioning a livestock feeder within 10 metres of inland waters or within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole [regulation 10].

There is also a catch-all offence of failing to prevent land management and cultivation practices on agricultural land from resulting in agricultural diffuse pollution [regulation 10].

Cultivation practices likely to cause pollution, if done incorrectly, include creating farmed tracks on, or gateways to, land, establishing seedbeds, polytunnels or tramlines, cleaning out ditches, installing drainage or irrigation and irrigating crops or spraying them with pesticides, herbicides or fungicides.

If you see any of these causing agricultural diffuse pollution, please report it at once, both to the Environment Agency and to S&TC, so we can track what the Agency does about it.

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