



Every day poses new challenges
to our ocean, waves and beaches.

62,000

Gallons of polluted runoff can be generated from just one inch of rain falling on the hard surfaces of a city block.

20,000+

Beach closures and advisories in the U.S. annually.

900 Billion

Gallons of untreated sewage spill into U.S. waters due to poor infrastructure every year.

THE GOOD NEWS

Beaches are a unique and dynamic landscape that should be protected for the future. The Surfrider Foundation is leading efforts at the state and local levels to protect our shorelines on every coast. Our efforts are focused on establishing appropriate setbacks for development, opposing shoreline structures and placing coastal lands in public trust.



Photo by Russell Ord

Join us and help keep water clean for all to enjoy.

surfrider.org



Blue Water Task Force

Ocean pollution is a serious problem. What is in our ocean affects both the health of beachgoers and the sea creatures we love. For example, urban runoff and failing sewer and septic systems are contaminating our coastal waters with bacteria, viruses and other pollutants. It's unacceptable that a day at the beach could result in the stomach flu, skin rashes, pinkeye, respiratory infections or worse.

The Blue Water Task Force is our volunteer-run, water testing, education and advocacy program. Through this program, Surfrider chapters are educating students and providing valuable water quality information to beach communities. We identify problems with beach and coastal water pollution and work in your local community to raise awareness of pollution problems and implement solutions.



**Everyone deserves
access to clean water to
surf, swim and play in.**



Photo by Morgan Maassen

Join the fight for clean water.

KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER

Our network of nearly 55 Blue Water Task Force labs measure bacteria levels at ocean and bay beaches and in freshwater sources, and compare them to the national water quality standards meant to protect public health in recreational waters.

Since the program's inception over 20 years ago, our volunteers have been out in their communities testing the water quality at their beaches. Most chapter water testing programs are designed to fill in the gaps and to complement state and local agency beach programs. Surfrider is testing beaches that are not covered by the agencies, and we are monitoring potential sources of pollution such as stormwater outlets, rivers and creeks that discharge onto the beach.

WE KEEP TESTING WHEN OTHERS STOP

The Blue Water Task Force is in operation year round, providing public health protection through the offseason. Lifeguards leave the beach and health officials stop collecting water samples, but surfers continue to surf and are exposed to potentially polluted water.

Our work doesn't stop there though. When our water quality results demonstrate real pollution problems, our volunteers use their data to build community awareness and to motivate local governments to take action to identify and fix the sources of ocean pollution.