



Slug Pellet Awareness

Bristol Water has launched a campaign to raise awareness among local gardeners and allotment holders within the catchment areas of Blagdon Lake and Chew Valley Lake about the potential for the chemicals in some slug pellets to enter streams and rivers, and ultimately reach local reservoirs.

Metoldehyde is an active ingredient found in many slug pellets and has been detected in Blagdon Lake and Chew Valley Lake above the European and UK standards for drinking water of 0.1 parts per billion. This standard is exceptionally tight – one tablespoon of slug pellets added to an Olympic sized swimming pool would mean that the concentration of metoldehyde in the water would be above the standard. The concentrations we have found are well below the level at which there would be any health concerns, but we do need to take action to prevent further increases.

It is very difficult to remove metoldehyde once it gets into our raw waters and so the best, and most sustainable solution is to stop metoldehyde getting into rivers and watercourses in the first place.

We need your help to protect the water quality of our local streams and rivers:

- Do not apply metoldehyde slug pellets if heavy rain is imminent.
- Slug pellets should be scattered thinly and evenly approximately 10-15cm (4-6 inches) apart rather than in piles or clumps.
- Only apply around plants that are prone to slug and snail attack.
- Do not apply slug pellets close to watercourses or ditches, or empty into drains.
- Ensure that any unused slug pellets are disposed of in their container and taken to your local recycling centre.
- Where possible consider organic or physical methods to tackling slugs or snails.



For further information please contact catchmentmanagement@bristolwater.co.uk