

Raw sewage pumped into Thames for third time in three weeks

Water firm bosses have said they are treating technical problems which resulted in raw sewage being dumped into the River Thames as a 'matter of urgency'. Thames Water has apologised again after sewage spilled into the river on Sunday from Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works.



It is the third time in three weeks river users have had to put up with the foul smelling mess.

A statement released today from Thames Water said:

"We're really sorry for the mess this has caused.

"We're investigating with a matter of urgency how this happened." The effluent flowed downstream, towards Maidenhead, and surrounded boats moored at Bourne End Marina.

The Environment Agency (EA) has been involved in a clean-up operation of the river and said it is continuing to investigate the problem.

On Wednesday last week Thames Water confirmed there had been **seven** 'accidental' sewage leakages in the Thames in the **last six months**.

30 May 2013 - [Public Health England](#)

Swimming in the River Thames can carry a risk of illness

A new report published today by Public Health England (PHE) shows that swimming in the River Thames can carry a risk of gastrointestinal illness.

The report was produced following an investigation by PHE, and event organisers Human Race, into an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness amongst participants of the **Hampton Court Swim** which took place on Sunday 7 October 2012 in the stretch of river between Hampton Court and Kingston Bridge. Over **1,000** people took part in the swim and **338** reported experiencing symptoms of illness after the swim including nausea, diarrhoea, stomach cramps and vomiting.

Actions for all river users

- Wash water bottles after an outing (try to find one with a splash cap that protects the nozzle)
- Wash your hands after every outing
- You must shower if you have been in the water
- Open wounds and insect bites should be covered during outings, washed and disinfected after any chance of contact with river water
- Boats, equipment and clothing should be washed with detergent after use in the river - even items that are not immersed.

All members are encouraged to improve their levels of personal hygiene after contact with river water. If you get ill, possibly as a result of contact with river water and you have to visit your doctor, make sure they are aware that you have been exposed to river water.