

Friends of the Reedy River

What is turbidity?

Turbidity is the measure of cloudiness of water and can impact photosynthesis and water temperature. It can indicate unmanaged runoff to the waterway. The higher the turbidity, the less transparent the water is.



Why is turbidity important?

Sediment, which can contribute to turbidity, naturally occurs in streams but can also carry metals. If a stream receives more sediment than its flow can transport, the stream will widen and get warmer. Warm water holds less oxygen than cool water, leading to declines in DO for organisms.

What are ideal levels of turbidity?

To meet state standards, most freshwater streams must not exceed 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs). Higher NTU values indicate more solids in the water.

Source: South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream Volunteer Handbook

To learn more, visit the South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream Volunteer Handbook!