

What is Gelatinous Hydroxide of Iron?

Gelatinous Hydroxide of Iron is naturally occurring brown to red jelly-like substance frequently seen in water courses in the Adelaide Hills.

Gelatinous hydroxide of iron is often mistaken as sewage, because of its appearance and as such Council receives many calls from concerned residents every year. However it has no connection with the sewage system or septic systems.

Where does it come from?

Certain types of bacteria use iron as an energy source, in the process they change the iron which is then deposited as a slimy gelatinous material surrounding the bacteria. These bacteria grow in stringy clumps and are found in most iron bearing waters. Water ways in the Adelaide Hills are iron bearing waters.



Is it dangerous?

Although gelatinous hydroxide of iron looks unsightly it is not **toxic or dangerous** and will disperse in time. It can be removed from the water by physical filtration however this is costly and is only ever conducted if hydraulic pumps are being blocked by the substance.