

## Evidence of Water Quality Issues 101

A lot of water quality issues can be identified and often solved, by a 'fresh eyes' approach to inspecting assets. The following list of things found inside storage tanks will assist in more informed inspection outcomes:

1. Floating debris: The top water line area can tell 'a story' of what is occurring within the tank.
2. Birds: Holes in roof and ventilation areas, hatches left open or poorly sealed areas.
3. Snakes, frogs, rats and rabbits: These indicate that there are likely holes in roof areas or unsealed overflow pipe drains, particularly on inground tanks
4. Larger animals: Dogs, foxes, rats and cats indicate significant holes in roof and fascia areas, especially with inground tanks.
5. Rocks and rubbish: Vandal activity.
6. Leaf debris and grass litter: These indicate that vent mesh screen material is too coarse and allows excessive ventilation, or roof ridge capping is unsealed. Overhanging trees, mowing and maintenance contractors unaware of their waste impacts close to the tank.
7. Dust: Excessive ventilation and impacts from local environment issues such as dry farming, unsealed roads, local industry pollutants or ash from land burning practices.
8. Sediment on walls: Tanks not cycled or mixed effectively.
9. Floc carry-over or black sediment: Treatment Plant operational issues.
10. Roof construction debris: Contractors that weren't supervised or inducted correctly.

All of the above will affect the stored water quality and 'following the evidence trail' will assist in determining the source of the contamination to ensure the consumers are not exposed to unsafe water.