

FACT SHEET

BIOFILM

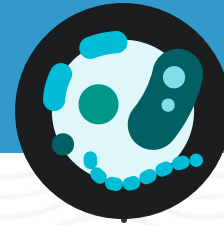


It's unsightly, it smells bad, it's unpleasant to touch, and it's a threat to your plumbing.

BIOFILM IS THE POTENTIAL CAUSE OF:

- ▶ RAPID AMPLIFICATION
- ▶ BACTERIAL RESISTANCE
- ▶ RAPID RECOLONIZATION

HOW DOES BIOFILM AFFECT WATERBORNE PATHOGENS?



BACTERIAL RESISTANCE
Bacteria in biofilm can be up to **a thousand times more resistant** to typical disinfectants and antibiotics than the same microorganisms grown in suspension.

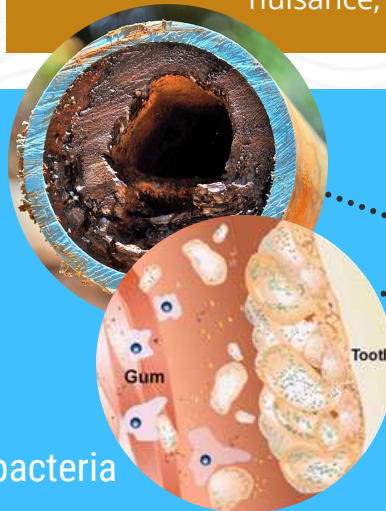
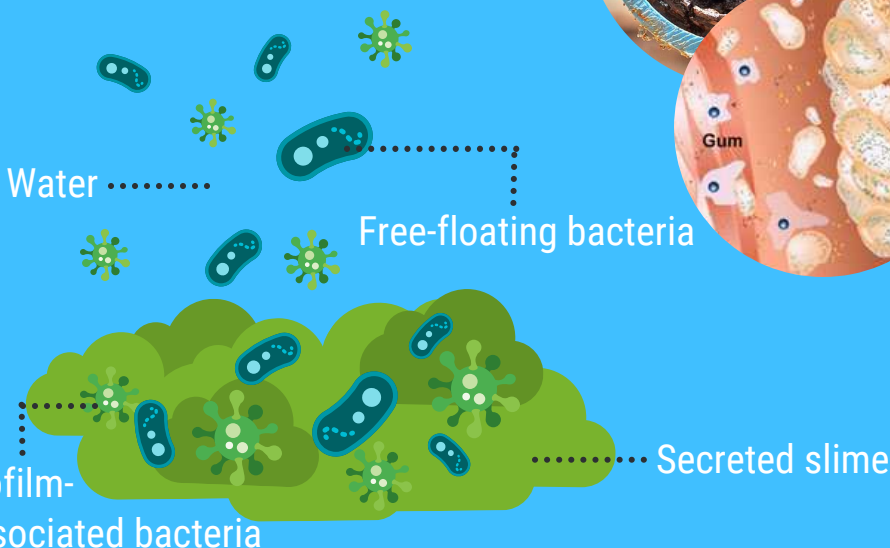
RAPID RECOLONIZATION
Even if all free-floating bacteria are eliminated at a given time, biofilms allow for quick growth and recontamination of a surface or area if the associated biofilm is not treated.

RAPID AMPLIFICATION
Biofilm acts as ideal breeding grounds for rapid amplification of bacteria and dangerous pathogens by providing ideal environments and nutrient deposits.

WHAT IS BIOFILM?

Biofilm is a collection of different types of bacteria, fungi, and protists in a colony enveloped in secreted slime that allows them to adhere to moist surfaces ideal for growth. Biofilm is one of the most common techniques for growth and protection for these microorganisms, and is not only a nuisance, but a potential hazard.

BIOFILM & BACTERIA



COMMON AREAS FOR BIOFILM GROWTH

- Buildup in water pipes
- Plaque on teeth and gums
- Bacterial colonization in lungs in cystic fibrosis patients
- Urinary catheters
- Contact lenses

According to National Institutes of Health (NIH), about **65% of all microbial infections**, and **80% of all chronic infections** are associated with biofilms.