We Are All Water Stewards

Common Water Pollutant Cards

Directions: Copy onto card stock, cut out each card and laminate.

Yard Waste

Pollutant Description: Debris from landscape and garden like leaves, twigs, sticks, dirt and lawn clippings

Potential Source: Homes, apartments, business offices, parks and other

What you'll use to demonstrate: Basil leaves will represent yard debris

Action: Sprinkle the yard waste (basil) into the water

Construction Materials/ Cement

Pollutant Description: Materials used at construction sites like cement

Potential Source: Piles, packages or waste from construction site activities at home, businesses, school or other places

What you'll use to demonstrate: Flour will represent construction materials

Action: Sprinkle the cement (flour) into the water

Pet and Animal Waste

Pollutant Description: Waste (feces and urine) from pets and from agriculture like cows, horses, sheep and others

Potential Source: Anywhere people walk their pets, as well as, farms where animals are being raised

What you'll use to demonstrate: Coffee crystals will represent pet and animal wastes

Action: Sprinkle the coffee crystals into the water

Soil and Sediment

Pollutant Description: Dirt, sediment and soil

Potential Source: Construction sites, landscaping, erosion, agriculture like farming of plants and animals

What you'll use to demonstrate: Cocoa powder will represent sediment

Action: Sprinkle the sediment (Cocoa powder into the water)

Litter and Trash

Pollutant Description: Human generated debris like plastic food wrappers, aluminum and glass drink containers, paper products, discarded waste of all kinds

Potential Source: Humans by dumping, trashcan overflow, carelessness, packaging from food

What you'll use to demonstrate: Paper "confetti" from a hole puncher will represent litter

Action: Sprinkle the litter (paper confetti) into the water

Soap

Pollutant Description: Soap and other cleaning products

Potential Source: Washing cars or other items like cleaning outside areas, windows, tables and chairs

What you'll use to demonstrate: Thick, soapy water represents the soap

Action: Drip the soap into the water

Car / engine Oil

Pollutant Description: Liquid chemical used in motor vehicles

Potential Source: Cars, trucks and tractors can drip oil. Also, when oil gets changed at auto mechanic shops and also at people's homes, farms or construction sites.

What you'll use to demonstrate: Red food color-dyed water will represent engine oil

Action: Drip the oil (red colored water) into the water

Anti-freeze

Pollutant Description: Liquid chemical used in motor vehicles

Potential Source: Cars, trucks and tractors use anti-freeze. When anti-freeze gets changed at auto mechanic shops and also at people's homes, farms or construction sites.

What you'll use to demonstrate: Green food color-dyed water will represent anti-freeze

Action: Drip the anti-freeze (green colored water) into the water

Fertilizer

Pollutant Description: Concentrated natural and/or chemical sources of nutrients used to “feed” grasses, trees, flowers and other plants

Potential Source: Fertilizer can be used where ever there are plants growing- at homes, parks, farms, rangelands, along roadside medians and other places

What you’ll use to demonstrate: Paprika or chili powder represents fertilizer

Action: Sprinkle the fertilizer (chili powder) into the water

Pesticides and Herbicides

Pollutant Description: Chemicals used to kill pests (insects or animals) and chemicals used to kill unwanted plants

Potential Source: Pesticides and herbicides can be used where ever there are pests and/or plants growing- at homes, parks, farms, rangelands, roadside medians and other places

What you’ll use to demonstrate: Lemonade powder drink mix represents pesticides and herbicides

Action: Sprinkle the pesticides and herbicides (lemonade powder) into the water