

# **Clean Water University**

## **Pollution Flashcards**

1. Print out the flashcards two-sided, with the image on the front and the answer on the back.
2. Show the class one image at a time and let them guess how it can impact water.
3. Share the answer on the back of the card with them.
4. You can also have the kids write or draw their answers!



**Prevent soil and debris from going into storm drains so they don't get clogged or change the pH of the water which can harm aquatic life in our local waterways.**



**Put fats, oils, and grease in the garbage can. If rinsed down the drain, they can clog wastewater pipes and damage the system.**



**Mulch leaves in your garden, put them in your yard debris can, or use the City's leaf pickup program in the fall instead of letting leaves get into our stormwater drains. Leaves in storm drains can clog them and introduce debris changing the pH of our local waterways and affecting aquatic life.**



**Use natural methods to control weeds and bugs in your yard. Pesticides and other chemical sprays can end up in our local waterways or groundwater.**



**Put trash in the garbage can!  
If flushed, it can clog waste-  
water pipes. If tossed in the  
street, it will likely end up in  
our local waterways and harm  
aquatic life, birds and animals.**



**Take leftover medications and supplements to your pharmacy for disposal. If flushed down the toilet, they will go into the Willamette River as they cannot be completely removed during the cleaning process at the wastewater treatment plant.**



**Leftover paint is considered a household hazardous waste product and should not be poured down the drain.**

**Lane County Waste Management offers free paint collection to get rid of old or unwanted products.**



**Some personal care products contain microplastic beads that cannot be removed during the cleaning process at the wastewater treatment plant and will eventually end up in the Willamette River. Pick products that do not contain plastic beads or other micro plastics.**



**Put doggie poo in it's  
place, the trash!**

**If left on the ground, rain can  
wash it into our local  
waterways and along with  
it, bacteria that is harmful to  
aquatic life.**



**Wash your vehicle on your lawn or a gravel surface so water can be cleaned naturally through the soil instead of going straight into the storm drain where it is not cleaned before going into our local waterways. Better yet, go to a car wash where dirty water is sent to the wastewater treatment plant to be cleaned before going into the Willamette River.**



**Some cleaning products can harm wastewater pipes and are hard to remove during the cleaning process. Pick more natural products to use such as vinegar and baking soda.**



**Disinfectant and personal  
wipes are not flushable and  
need to go in the trash,  
even if they say flushable.  
Wipes can create clogs  
that lead to sewer or  
septic backups.**