



Pollution Pickup

Background information:

If it's on the ground, it ends up in our creeks, streams, and rivers. Stormwater runoff carries pollution that lies on the ground into the storm drains and then into our waterways.

We often think of trash, oil, and chemicals when we think of pollution. However, pollution can come in many forms. Pollution can also be leaves, dirt, sticks, and pet waste that gets washed into the waterways. Even though these things are natural, and some will be in the water, too much can increase the temperature and reduce the amount of oxygen in the water.



Directions:

1. Read the safety rules below before beginning your pollution pickup.
2. Go outside and pick up pollution. You and your adult may pick up pollution in your yard, around your neighborhood, or even a public space like a park.
3. You may clean up trash, leaves, sticks, or even pet waste.
4. If cleaning yard waste, use a lawn and leaf bag.
5. If cleaning trash, place trash in a trash bag and dispose of it properly.



Safety:

Please follow these safety rules while completing a pollution pickup.

1. Take an adult with you.
2. Know your surroundings and stay off private property unless you have permission.
3. Wear protective gear such as gloves and closed toe shoes.
4. Stay off the street and watch for cars if crossing streets.
5. Let an adult help clean up items that may be unsafe, such as glass. Place glass inside a box or plastic bottle to ensure it does not puncture your bag.
6. It's good to clean near the water but be safe and do not get in the water to clean.
7. When you are finished, dispose of your gloves and wash your hands thoroughly.

