# Water Pollution?

What do you think of when you hear or read the word pollution?

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There are two types of water pollution:
point source pollution
and nonpoint source pollution.

## Point source pollution

*Point source pollution can be traced to one source. You can easily identify its source. You can point at sewage flowing from broken pipes or see waste materials coming from a factory. Laws have been passed to stop this type of pollution. In addition to paying fines for breaking the law, polluters must clean polluted water before it goes back into rivers.*

# Nonpoint source pollution

Nonpoint source pollution comes from many different sources. There are many possible sources of the dirty "stuff" in streams and lakes. For example, each time it rains, runoff from the street picks up litter, motor oil, pet (animal) waste, leaves, grass clippings and spilled chemicals. These things are washed into storm drains and make their way to our rivers and streams.

Nonpoint source pollution (NPS) is also runoff from rainfall and snowmelt moving over and through the ground. The runoff carries natural and human-made pollutants into lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and other water systems.

Nonpoint source pollution existed even before people started building roads, houses and businesses. Heavy rains carry dirt, soil and other things into rivers and streams.

Each time it rains, runoff from the street picks up litter, motor oil, pet (animal) waste, leaves, grass clippings and spilled chemicals.

## Circle the items that can pollute water.

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|---|---|---|
| SOIL | MOTOR OIL | BOTTLES |
| PAINT | LITTER | PET WASTE |
| GASOLINE | LEAVES | CHEMICALS |
| PAPER | CANS | ABANDONED CARS |

-Adapted from *Understanding Water - Activity Book*, Colorado Foundation for Agriculture.

# What do you see in the picture?

# How can we help the fish?

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*The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says that nonpoint sources are the main cause of our water pollution*

-Adapted from **Understanding Water - Activity Book**, Colorado Foundation for Agriculture.