



Clean Water Campaign/  
Water Use It Wisely  
**2008 ESSAY CONTEST  
ENTRY FORM**



**Deadline: September 29, 2008**

Please complete the form below and submit with your essay.

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Title of Essay: Water Pollution + Conservation

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# WATER POLLUTION AND CONSERVATION

By Mariah Brown

Imagine what your life would be like without water. There would be no clean water to drink and sanitation would be difficult as well as the use of water for agricultural, industrial, commercial, and recreational needs. The truth is that most humans take our natural supply of water for granted. In one day, the average human may use more than 140 gallons a day. As the U.S. population increases, more and more water is wasted each day.

Polluted water can be a main threat to human, animal, and plant health. Pollutants such as herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, and other hazardous chemicals can make their way into our water supply and contaminate it. There are two different kinds of sources for pollution. The first is a point source, a cause that can be traced directly to an exact place. These sources include places such as water treatment plants, outfalls from factories, and leaking underground tanks. An example of pollution and its effects include pollutants such as fertilizers and pesticides running off or washing into streams, rivers, and lakes. Pollutants can also seep into the soil from large, open areas such as agricultural fields. There are also non-point sources. These are pollutants that make their way to water sources indirectly, through environmental changes. Pollutants from non-point resources make up the majority of contaminants in lakes.

However, humans can do things to prevent the growing amount of water pollution. One of the minor ways to do this is to pick up your pet's waste. Pet waste contains nutrients and pathogens that can contaminate surface water and cause contamination through run-off. Other ways include taking your car to a professional car wash instead of doing it in your own driveway. The soap used may contain chlorine, chlorine bleach, phosphates, nitrates, and ammonia. Thirdly, you can avoid using fertilizer on your lawn when a rain shower is expected. Last of all, you should clean a driveway or other surface by sweeping rather than using a hose and water.

I believe that humans need to be more careful with how much water they use as well as helping to prevent the pollution of water. Simple things can be done such as making sure not to throw litter along the water's edge or in it. Picking up litter can also be helpful around beaches and lakes. Being sure to only deposit hazardous waste in hazardous waste collection centers can also play a huge difference. Humans should also be careful not to pour leftover paint down the sink or on the ground, which can contaminate ground water.

I also believe that elected officials should take on more duties concerning the safety of water. For example, oil dumping as well as the dumping of garbage into a body of water should be prohibited. Also, officials need to encourage driving only when necessary. Cars deposit toxic and dangerous metals and petroleum products into the environment. This especially occurs through contamination of storm water.

All in all, I believe that the protection and conservation of our water is very, very important. I would like to encourage people to do every little thing they can to reduce the amount of pollution in our limited supply.