

AS9 - Home Environment Checklist

The home survey can be used to identify ways in which our homes could be contributing to stormwater pollution. This activity is an ideal homework assignment.

Syllabus Reference

Core Content: 5.10 d) discuss strategies used to balance human activities and needs in ecosystems with conserving, protecting and maintaining the quality of the environment

Time: 40 minutes

Home Environment Checklist

Issue	Action	Yes	No
Water use	Water consumption / person / year =		
	Water saving devices are fitted to shower and toilet		
	Leaking taps are promptly repaired		
	Showers are kept to 3 minutes		
	Low water use appliances (dishwasher/washing machine) are used		
Energy use	Electricity consumption / person / year =		
	Energy saving lights are installed in all fittings		
	All household appliances have AAA energy rating		
	Use of heaters and dryers is minimised		
	Ceiling and wall insulation is installed		
	Cold water washing of clothes		
	Solar hot water system is installed		
	Low energy rating appliances are used		
	“Green Power” is used for energy supply (renewable energy)		
Transport	Car use (km travelled/person/year =		
	Car use is minimised		
	Bike or walking is used for local transport		
	Public transport is our preferred option for travel		
Kitchen	Food waste is composted		
	Reusable shopping bags are used (cloth, heavy duty plastic)		
	Organic products are used whenever possible		
	Australian grown products are used when possible		
	When we buy take away food we take our own containers		
Cleaning	Outdoor surfaces are kept clean by sweeping with a broom.		
	When outdoor surfaces are cleaned with a hose, no run-off escapes to the stormwater drains		
	Least toxic alternatives are always used		
	Paint brushes are cleaned away from stormwater drains and contaminated water is poured onto the garden or lawn		
	Roadside gutters are regularly swept clean. Leaves etc are composted.		

Car maintenance	Car servicing is conducted at a reputable centre that implements best environmental practice or at home where drains are protected.		
	Car is washed at a car wash that recycles water and protects stormwater system or on the grass at home (no suds run to stormwater drains)		
	Used oil is recycled.		
	Car is kept well tuned to minimise air pollution		
Garden	Garden waste is composted or mulched		
	Water use minimised by mulching gardens		
	Fertiliser use is minimised by using compost		
	Pesticide use is avoided		
	Least toxic alternatives are always used.		
	Rainwater tanks are installed and used for watering garden		
	Mostly Australian native plants are used		
	Area of paved and hard surfaces kept to a minimum		
	Run off from paved surfaces is channelled into gardens or rainwater tanks for re-use		
Clothing	Clothing is purchased according to need rather than fashion.		
	Organic cotton, hemp or recycled clothing is used whenever possible.		
	Australian made clothing is used whenever possible.		
Renovations	Recycled materials are used where possible		
	Least toxic paints, floor sealers are used		
	Builder implements effective sediment control measures		
	Contractors use effective pollution prevention practices		
	Building waste is minimised or reused on-site		

Compile the results for your class.
 Discuss ways in which individuals and households can reduce their environmental impact.
 Prepare a report on the results of this activity