

Key to: Test Your Pollution Prevention IQ

How much pollution prevention info do you have at your fingertips? Test your knowledge base by taking this quiz.

1. The furnace/air conditioner uses more energy than anything else in the home. What is the second greatest source of home energy use?
 a. home appliances
b. indoor and outdoor lighting
c. hot water heater
2. What accounts for more than half of the hazardous waste disposed of by individuals?
a. paint products
b. cosmetic products
 c. household cleaners
3. The proportion of Americans who get to work using public transportation has changed how much since 1960?
a. increased more than 50%
b. increased, but less than 50%
 c. dropped more than 50%
d. dropped, but less than 50%
4. Some 220 million acres of land in the U.S. have been deforested for livestock production. What proportion of U.S. croplands are used just to grow feed for livestock?
a. 15%
b. 25%
c. 50%
 d. 75%
5. In the average U.S. household, what proportion of the water is used in the bathroom?
a. 20%
b. 35%
c. 50%
 d. 75%
6. Aerosol cans that say "No CFC's" are environmentally safe. True or ~~False~~?
Most such aerosols use propane or butane which contribute to smog.
7. The best time to water your lawn is
 a. morning
b. afternoon
c. early evening
d. night
In the heat of the day, water evaporates 4 to 8 times more quickly than early morning; watering at night can cause fungus.
8. The bleaching of paper for paper towels, coffee filters, etc. has been linked with what toxic substance?
 a. dioxin
b. chlorofluorocarbons
c. lead
d. sulfuric acid
9. How many trees are used in making disposable diapers every year?
a. 10 million
b. 100 million
 c. 1 billion
d. 3 billion
10. What is the primary source of significant exposure to lead in the environment?
 a. deteriorating lead-based paint in housing
b. urban soil and dust contaminated by lead from paint and gasoline
c. drinking water contaminated by lead solder joining water pipes, past use of lead service lines, and continued use of lead in brass plumbing fixtures
d. emissions from lead smelters and municipal waste combustors

11. The largest single source of CFC emissions is

- a. disposable foam products
- b. leaking auto air conditioners
- c. refrigerators

12. How many pounds of carbon does the average car release each year?

- a. 100
- b. 1,000
- c. 5,000
- d. 10,000

13. Overall, you use less energy if you keep your home at a constant temperature; so don't turn down the heat when you leave for a few hours. True or False?

14. Before they had pesticides, farmers lost about 1/3 (33%) of their crops to pests. Today, with pesticides, what percentage of U.S. crops do pests ruin?

- a. 5%
- b. 12%
- c. 20%
- d. 33%

15. Waste paper, food scraps, yard waste, and paper plates together make up what proportion of the material in U.S. landfills?

- a. 71%
- b. 46%
- c. 23%
- d. 10%

16. You save gas when you let your car idle for a couple of minutes rather than turning the ignition off and on again.

True or False?

If your car is standing still for one minute or longer, idling is less efficient than restarting the car.

17. Compact fluorescent bulbs cost a lot, but they can save you money because they last much longer than incandescent and use only _____ as much energy.

- a. 10%
- b. 25%
- c. 50%
- d. 75%

The bulbs are usually worth the investment if they are on at least two hours a day.

18. About 70% of plants identified by the National Cancer Institute as being useful in cancer treatment are found only in rain forests. Nevertheless, destruction of the world's tropical rain forest is proceeding at the rate of

- a. 1 acre per minute
- b. 10 acres per minute
- c. 20-30 acres per minute
- d. 50-100 acres per minute

At this rate, tropical rain forests will be completely destroyed in 100 years.

19. Which of the following gasses is (are) responsible for the greenhouse effect and global warming?

- a. Carbon dioxide
- b. Chlorofluorocarbons
- c. Methane
- d. Nitrous oxide
- e. Sulfur dioxide
- f. Ozone

What can you do to prevent pollution?

1. PICK-UP LITTER
2. DRIVE LESS
3. USE FLUORESCENT BULBS
4. BUY LESS PACKAGING
5. RECYCLE
6. COMPOST
7. REUSE
8. RIDE MY BIKE
9. DON'T LET CAR IDLE
10. KEEP HEAT AT COMFORT TEMP

-Judith K Rosenthal. Sources include: 50 simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth, Save Our Planet, and publications by EPA and the World Resource Institute.

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