

Materials that are released into our air, water or soils can sometimes make our environment dirty or unsafe. These materials are called pollutants, and are produced by humans and industry.

Examples are;



Chimney smoke

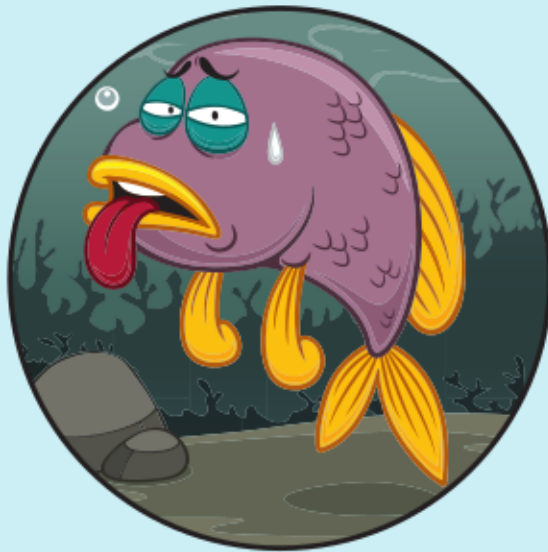


Car exhausts



Litter on the street

Pollutants can be;



Harmful to our environment or cause us to cough or wheeze

Animals and plants are able to clean some types of pollutants, they are called **biodegradable pollutants** e.g. grass clippings, vegetables.

Some pollutants can stay in our environment for 100s of years, for example it can take up to 500 years for plastic to break down! These pollutants are called **persistent organic pollutants** or **POPs**.

HOW CAN WE REDUCE POLLUTION?

Reduce

Try to avoid buying pre-packaged foods

Reuse

Try and reuse plastic bags, paper envelopes, glass jars

Recycle

Recycle plastics, papers and metals

