

Waste Management and Your Health

Waste Management · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. What is a primary health risk associated with poorly managed solid waste, especially in warmer climates?

- A) Increased plant growth
- B) Attraction of disease-carrying insects and rodents**
- C) Improved air quality
- D) Reduced soil erosion

2. Unsafe disposal of human waste can lead to the contamination of drinking water sources with pathogens. Which disease is commonly spread through contaminated water?

- A) Asthma
- B) Diabetes
- C) Cholera**
- D) Arthritis

3. What health hazard can arise from burning plastic waste in open fires?

- A) Release of pleasant floral scents
- B) Production of clean, breathable air
- C) Emission of toxic chemicals and particulate matter**
- D) Neutralization of harmful gases

4. Properly managed sewage systems are crucial for preventing the spread of which type of illnesses?

- A) Allergies
- B) Waterborne diseases**
- C) Skin conditions
- D) Bone fractures

5. Exposure to lead, often found in older waste materials, can have what effect on children's health?

- A) Improved cognitive development
- B) Strengthened bones
- C) Impaired brain development and learning difficulties**
- D) Increased height

6. What common household waste item, if not disposed of correctly, can pose a risk of injury and the spread of infection?

- A) Paper towels
- B) Plastic bottles
- C) Broken glass and sharp objects**
- D) Cardboard boxes

7. Landfills, if not properly lined and managed, can leach harmful chemicals into the surrounding soil and groundwater. This can impact the safety of what?

- A) Local weather patterns
- B) Agricultural produce grown nearby**
- C) Bird migration routes
- D) Ocean currents

8. The decomposition of organic waste in the absence of oxygen (anaerobic decomposition) produces methane gas. While a greenhouse gas, it can also contribute to what issue in poorly ventilated areas?

- A) Improved lighting
- B) Increased oxygen levels
- C) Potential fire or explosion hazards**
- D) Reduced humidity

9. Medical waste, such as used needles and contaminated bandages, requires special handling to prevent the transmission of which types of serious illnesses?

- A) Common colds
- B) Influenza
- C) Infectious diseases like Hepatitis and HIV**
- D) Seasonal allergies

10. Which of the following materials, if disposed of improperly in waterways, can harm aquatic life and potentially enter the human food chain?

- A) Natural fibers like cotton
- B) Biodegradable food scraps
- C) Plastics**
- D) Leaves and branches

11. The accumulation of stagnant water in discarded containers, a form of waste, can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes that transmit diseases like:

- A) The common cold
- B) Malaria and Dengue fever**
- C) The flu
- D) Chickenpox

12. What is a key benefit of composting organic waste for human health and the environment?

- A) It produces toxic fumes
- B) It reduces the need for landfills and creates nutrient-rich soil**
- C) It increases air pollution
- D) It attracts pests

13. Exposure to dust and particulate matter from unmanaged waste can exacerbate which respiratory condition?

- A) Perfect vision
- B) Asthma and other breathing problems**
- C) Healthy digestion
- D) Normal blood pressure

14. Recycling certain materials, like batteries, is important because they can contain heavy metals that are harmful to human health if they leach into the environment, such as:

- A) Calcium
- B) Iron
- C) Mercury and cadmium**
- D) Potassium

15. What is a direct health benefit of effective waste collection services in urban areas?

- A) Increased traffic congestion
- B) Reduced exposure to vermin and associated diseases**
- C) Lower temperatures
- D) More noise pollution