

## Waste in Place Vocabulary Words



Beautify - to make an area more beautiful; actions such as picking up litter in the community and planting flowers and trees; through research, Keep America Beautiful has determined that beautifying an area prevents littering

Biodegradable material - waste material which is capable of being broken down, usually by bacteria, into basic elements; most organic wastes, such as food remains and paper are biodegradable under certain conditions

Cleanup – the act of picking up litter in an area

Compost – a mixture of decomposing organic matter (e.g. food waste, leaves, and lawn clippings) may be used to improve the physical properties of the soil, such a texture and aeration; compost in not a fertilizer

Composting – the controlled biological decomposition of organic solid waste under aerobic (in the presence of oxygen) conditions; organic waste materials are transformed into soil amendments such as humus or mulch

Decompose – break down into basic components

Dispose – to get rid of waste; throw away

Dump – an open land site where waste is deposited; unsightly and possibly harmful due to leaching of toxic substances into surrounding groundwater; often incorrectly used as a synonym for sanitary landfill

Environment – everything that surrounds and influences living organisms, including people, animals, plants, soil, water, weather, buildings, etc.

Garbage – refuse consisting of food wastes; animal and vegetable wastes resulting from the handling, storage, sale, preparation, cooking and serving foods

Graffiti – crude inscriptions or drawings on a wall or other public surface

Habit – an action a person does over and over again without thinking; litter is a bad habit

Illegal dumping – disposing of waste in an improper manner and/or location and in violation of waste disposal laws

Litter – human generated solid waste that is discarded in an inappropriate place (e.g. streets, playgrounds, streams, etc.), or improperly stored waste which has escaped from its container

Litter prevention – activities designed to encourage people to not litter

Litterbug – term used for a person who litters

Pollution – the contamination of soil, water, or air; improperly disposed waste can cause pollution

Recycle – a resource recovery method involving the collection and treatment of a waste product for use as a raw material in the manufacture of the same or another product (e.g. using old aluminum cans to make new ones)

Reduce – to lessen the amount of waste generated and thus waste disposed

Reuse – to extend the life of an item by using it again as it is, repairing it, or creating new uses for it

Trash – useless or unwanted materials that are thrown away; synonym for waste

Waste - useless or unwanted materials that are discarded in appropriate trash receptacles or littered