# What is land pollution?

Land pollution is the deterioration (destruction) of the earth’s land surfaces, often directly or indirectly as a result of man’s activities and their misuse of land resources.

It occurs when waste is not disposed of properly, or can occur when humans throw chemicals onto the soil in the form of pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers during agricultural practices. Exploitation of minerals (mining activities) has also contributed to the destruction of the earth’s surface.

# Sources of land pollution.

**Garbage or waste:** These include household or municipal waste such as glass, metal, cloth, plastic, wood, paper, and so on. Some of these can decay and others cannot. They are usually collected and sent to landfills where the pollution action begins.

**Deforestation**: This is when trees are cut down for economic purposes, mining, farming and construction. In forests areas, trees absorb and reflect about 20% of the intense heat from the sun, protecting and preserving its surface soils. Cutting down trees mean that the land is exposed to direct sunlight and rain, resulting in soil erosions, desertification and land degradation

**Chemical And Nuclear Plants**: These include chemical waste from chemical industries that are disposed of into landfills.

# How to prevent land pollution

* Buy biodegradable products.
* Store all liquid chemicals and waste in spill-proof containers.
* Eat organic foods that are grown without pesticides. Look out for fertilizer or pesticide free products when you go to the market.
* Don’t use pesticides if you can.
* Use a drip tray to collect engine oil.
* Buy products that have little packaging.
* Don’t dump motor oil on the ground.
* Governments can also ensure that there are incentives for people to recycle and re-use things.