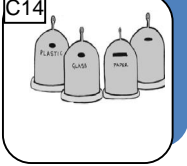


22: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

C14



C15



V3



V5



F15



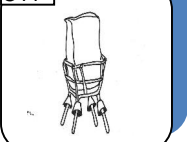
C12



W14



C11



What is Solid Waste?

Whatever rubbish we throw away, and cannot be dissolved into liquid is termed 'Solid Waste'. This includes glass bottles, plastic bags and containers, tins, paper and cardboard boxes, metal objects and unused items which are dumped.

On average in Western Cape it is estimated that each person generates about 2 kgs of solid waste per day. Unfortunately, due to poor disposal much of this solid waste ends up littering the streets, spoiling the natural environment, our beaches, polluting the air, and water we drink.

Not only is solid waste unsightly and makes a foul smelling environment, rotting garbage attracts vectors, rats, mice, cockroach and flies, all of which transport germs onto our food, which, as we have seen brings diseases such as diarrhoea.

Therefore to stay healthy we have to get rid of the root cause: vectors. We can deal with some of this within our own family but littering has to be controlled publically and systems need to be set up for everyone in the neighbourhood.

This is where health clubs can be invaluable.

As a group discuss: **How can we make a Vector Free Zone?**

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

1. A clean environment

- No littering / good recycling. (C14)
- No open garbage to attract vectors. (C15)
- All garbage bags to prevent odour. (V3)
- Garbage in strong bags safe from animals. (V5)

2. Protect food from access by rodents

- Store food in cupboard or food safe. (F15)
- Use hanging baskets. (C12)
- Use sealed plastic or metal containers. (W14)
- Use rat cones on furniture. (C11)

3. A clean home

- No remains of food left out. (C2)
- No unsanitary areas in toilet or kitchen. (C4)
- Use antiseptic to clean surfaces. (C6)

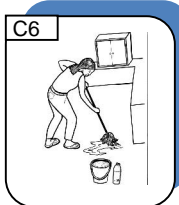
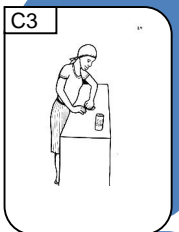
4. No Breeding sites

- Use Garbage pit to bury rubbish. (C16)
- No open defecation. (S6)
- No dirty latrine which attract flies. (S16)
- Municipal / Community management . (M15)

5. Extermination

- Spraying or using coils to kill flies.
- Using poison or glue to kill rats. (V11)
- Using rat traps. (V12)

22: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT Continued



ACTIVITY 21: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS TIME: 2 hours

As a group go on a walk for 30 minutes around the health club area. Each come back with one bad thing you have seen as regards littering. Think of a way it could be overcome. Discuss whether it can be solved at home, or if it requires the participation of the whole neighbourhood. Discuss the following issues:

- Who is responsible for dealing with solid waste disposal?
- Who is responsible for reporting about garbage dumping?
- Is it possible to do anything about this problem?
- List all the things that people can do privately.
- List things that have to be done publically.
- Who will do this?
- Can the club provide an Environment Officer to help?

ELECTING AN ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

What qualities are needed to be an Environment Officer?

Nominate people from the Health Club who would be good representatives.

Outline activities that the officer can to do maintain a clean area.

Nominate and vote for an Environment Officer .

Are there any other structures that he/she can tie into?
(e.g. service providers for solid waste disposal for the area)

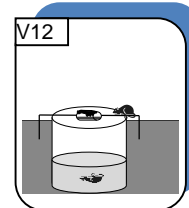
What will be his/her main roles and responsibilities?

Who will be needed to help him/her from the community?

Will they need any training or support to be effective?

What government structure could support them?

When he / she / they report and to whom?



RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

- Separate rubbish into cardboard, paper, glass and plastic and take it to a free drop off recycling depot.
- Collect all organic waste and make a compost to grow vegetables.
- Return glass bottles with deposits to shops for reuse.
- Start a recycling depot within the health club as income earner.
- Support other recycling programmes in your area.