

where do you stand?

This quiz will show how well you're doing and what needs to change, to have the least impact on the bay.

ACTIVITY	LOW RISK (1 POINT)	MEDIUM RISK (3 POINTS)	HIGH RISK (7 POINTS)	TOTAL RISK
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keeping the water clean

Runoff in coastal areas is unavoidable, but its effects can be reduced by keeping harmful substances out of the runoff. This section will help you assess your personal contribution to water pollution.

<b>Washing a vehicle</b> page 30	Always go to a commercial car wash.	Wash on a gravel or grassy surface, biodegradable soap is used sparingly and the hose flow is controlled.	Wash on an impervious surface (such as a driveway), generous amounts of soap are used, and the hose is left running with no nozzle.	
<b>Maintaining a vehicle</b> page 31	Any leaks fixed and all spills or drips cleaned up promptly. Used oil/filters recycled; used batteries to proper HHW Facility.	Leaks captured with a pan or carpet scrap. Spills cleaned up. Used oil/filters recycled, used batteries to proper HHW Facility.	Used oil, antifreeze and other wastes are dumped into a stormdrain or on the ground. Spills are not cleaned up.	
<b>Dog &amp; cat waste</b> pages 34-35	Dog waste is always picked up and disposed of. Cats are kept indoors.	Dog waste is usually picked up, and cats are sometimes allowed outdoors and waste is not picked up.	Animal waste is left to decompose on a paved surface in a concentrated area such as a pen or run. Cats spend all time outside and waste is not picked up.	
<b>Yard and garden care</b> pages 16-27	Organic slow release fertilizers are used once or twice a year. Pests are identified and then treated with non-toxic methods.	Chemical fertilizers and pesticides are occasionally used. Least toxic pesticides are selected for specific pests.	Quick release, chemical fertilizers are used along with a broad spectrum pest control product.	
<b>Chemical use, storage and disposal</b> pages 8-9	Hazardous chemicals are rarely or never bought. All are stored in closed container in watertight area. Old or unused given away or taken to proper HHW Facility.	Hazardous chemicals are bought but stored in closed containers in watertight area. Most are taken to the proper HHW Facility for disposal, but some are trashed.	Some or all chemicals are stored outdoors or exposed to water. Old or unwanted chemicals are dumped down drains or on the ground.	

Add up all the points in this column and write the sum in the box on the next page.

conserving water

How do your actions contribute to protection of our limited fresh water resources?

<b>Fixtures and toilets</b> pages 6-7	Low-usage toilets and faucets have been installed.	Some low-usage toilets and faucets have been installed.	No low-usage toilets or faucets have been installed.	
<b>Laundry and dishes</b> pages 6-7	Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes, or use a tub rather than running water to wash the dishes.	Try to wash full loads, but occasionally run small loads for convenience.	Wash numerous small loads for convenience and/or wash dishes by hand with the water running.	
<b>Faucet habits</b> pages 6-7	Do not let the water run while washing hands, shaving, brushing teeth, etc.	Occasionally let the water run while washing hands, shaving, brushing teeth, etc.	Usually let the water run while washing hands, shaving, brushing teeth, etc.	
<b>Yard and Garden irrigation</b> page 22	My yard is landscaped with drought tolerant plants that require little watering, which is delivered via drip irrigation.	Some drought tolerant plants are in my yard. Use both drip and sprinkler irrigation methods, but do not see water running off my property.	My yard is more than 60% lawn that requires frequent watering via sprinklers. Often see water running off my property and down the street.	

ACTIVITY	LOW RISK (1 POINT)	MEDIUM RISK (3 POINTS)	HIGH RISK (7 POINTS)	TOTAL RISK
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## habitat protection & preservation

How do your actions contribute to healthy habitat for wildlife?

<b>Litter</b> page 36	Never litter; regularly pick up trash left by others in my neighborhood, open spaces, and beaches.	Never litter, but don't usually clean up after others who do.	Regularly drop pieces of trash or cigarettes butts.	
<b>Pets</b> pages 32-35	Obey leash laws and always leash the dogs at natural parks and preserves. Cats are kept indoors to prevent deaths of birds and other wildlife. All pets are spayed or neutered and fed indoors.	Usually obey leash laws, but do sometimes allow dogs to roam natural parks and preserves off leash. Cats are indoors at night, but allowed outdoors where they may hunt wildlife. All pets are spayed/neutered and fed indoors.	Have one or more outdoor cats and/or walk my dog off leash in natural parks and preserves. Not all pets are spayed/ neutered. Food is left outside.	
<b>Trail and open space etiquette</b> page 36	Always stay on established trails and do not enter areas closed for restoration. Aware that local habitats are home to threatened and endangered species.	Usually stay on established trails, but occasionally enter areas that are closed and/or fenced, especially if I do not understand why the trail is closed.	Enter all natural areas regardless of the type of habitat, condition or location.	
<b>Habitat restoration efforts</b> page 36	Member and active volunteer with groups that do habitat restoration or clean-ups such as SWAP, Audubon, Surfrider, MBNEP, etc.	Member of group or groups that do habitat restoration but not very active. Will consider volunteering more time for important restoration projects.	Not a member of any local preservation groups.	
<b>Habitat in your yard</b> pages 23-25	Yard is planted with local native species, never use pesticides that can kill beneficial insects.	My yard is planted with mostly local or California natives.	Yard does not currently contain local or California natives. Didn't realize it was possible to create habitat in my own yard.	

Write total points here.



## how did you do?

Add up the points in the total risk column of each section and write the figure here. The lower the score, the better you are at taking care of household chores while also taking care of the bay and our precious, irreplaceable local habitat.

- BEST

14 - 28

You're a champion for the bay!
- GOOD

29 - 42

You're doing the right thing. Keep up the good work!
- FAIR

43 - 56

You'll pick up some great tips here. Practice until it's a habit!
- NOT GOOD

56+

Please make a change to help keep Morro Bay healthy.



Thank you for reading the book and taking the self-assessment. Please share this information and continue to practice good eco-habits. What you do really does matter!