



These “words/phrases” are examples of simple day-to-day actions you can take to help “save the reefs” and other ecosystems

- 🪸 **Support conservation:** Donate/volunteer for associations involved in Coral Reefs research and conservation.
- 🪸 **Reusable Grocery Bags:** Use them, this reduces the use of plastic bags which are a big contaminant.
- 🪸 **Batteries:** Use rechargeable batteries, and dispose them in the appropriate places helps reduce the dangerous substances on them that reach the ocean.
- 🪸 **Reusable water bottles:** Reduce the amount of plastic.
- 🪸 **Lights:** Switch off lights and turn air conditioning down help reduce carbon emissions, which means less coral bleaching in the future.
- 🪸 **Sustainable food:** Ask where your fish is from - eating sustainably-harvested fish means, healthy reefs and we will have fish to eat for a long time.
- 🪸 **Collect your trash:** Specially in the beach, put your trash where it belongs - marine debris like plastic bags and fishing line endangers turtles, dolphins, seabirds and many other marine organisms.

- 🪸 **Responsible snorkeling and diving:** Watch your fins when you snorkel - corals are fragile and take a long time to grow.
- 🪸 **Don't feed the fish:** Human food is bad for fish and fish have to play their role in the marine food web.
- 🪸 **Send words not balloons:** Send homemade cards, balloons are one of the most frequently found forms of marine debris.
- 🪸 **ONLY take memories and photographs:** Coral Reefs are constantly changing, removing things could be doing more damage than we think.
- 🪸 **Leave the shells:** Sea shells could be hermit crab homes, the rubble zones for fish to live in, and contribute to beach formation.
- 🪸 **Clean-ups:** Specially coastal cleanups help reduce debris in the ocean and Coral Reefs.
- 🪸 **Learn:** Education reduces divers and snorkelers physical impacts, and help people understand these ecosystems.
- 🪸 **Natural products:** Use of natural products helps reduce contaminants in the water.
- 🪸 **Bike/walk to work:** Helps reduce carbon emissions.
- 🪸 **Less water:** The more water we use, the less it reaches the ocean affecting the salinity and the health of the marine ecosystems.
- 🪸 **Less fertilizers:** Large amounts of nutrients reaching the ocean can cause harmful algae blooms and poison animals and favor pathogens.
- 🪸 **Native plants:** Use them in your garden, they are naturally adapted to that environment, requiring less pesticides and fertilizers.

 **Recycle:** Recycle reduces the amount of waste that reach the oceans.

 **Re-use:** This not only helps the ocean but all earth ecosystems.

 **Get involved:** Participate in local environmental programs/events.

 **Use long-lasting bulbs:** Reduce the amount of chemicals that can reach the oceans and the reefs

 **Use mooring buoys:** DO NOT ANCHOR ON REEFS!! Anchors and anchor chains, literally kill corals and other organisms.

 **Reefs clean-ups:** This activities reduce the amount of trash in the reefs.

 **Get politicians involved:** Ask your public representatives to create plans to protect the environment.

 **Carpool:** Reduced fuel emissions.

I am very thankful with the people in the coral-list that helped put this list together.

Other ideas, and more information, can be found at:

NOAA CORAL REEFS <http://coralreef.noaa.gov/getinvolved/whatyoucando/>

NOAA REEFS WATCH <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/bleaching5km/index.php>

FLOWER GARDENS BANK <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/protection/whatucando.html>

MARINE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION <http://www.provitapaxmarineresearch.org/>

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OR REEFS-2008 <https://www.youtube.com/user/IYOR2008>

INSTITUTE OF MARINE REMOTE SENSING <http://imars.marine.usf.edu/crw-dss/crw-dss-description>