OK, Eeko, humans throw out their trash, which trucks take away, and their wastewater disappears into drains.

So...what's the problem?

Well, people may not see their waste anymore, but it doesn't "go away," Commander Phred.

There is no "away"!
PROBLEM 1: TRASH AND WASTEWATER POLLUTE THE ENVIRONMENT

“Pollute?”

Yes... waste can make the Earth dirty or be harmful to Earthlings.

At landfills, toxic emissions from all the rotting garbage can pollute the air.

And water can seep through the trash to pollute the groundwater.

If trash is burned at waste-to-energy plants, harmful emissions come out of the smokestacks and toxic ash is left over.

And trash that isn’t put where it belongs harms thousands of Earth creatures every year.

How?

Sea turtles, seals, birds, dogs, cats, and other creatures get sick, injured, choke, or die when they eat or get tangled in trash.
PROBLEM 2: HUMANS ARE WASTING EARTH’S NATURAL RESOURCES

And water can get polluted when hazardous chemicals get put down drains. Wastewater treatment plants can’t always get them out.

This is just “Problem 1”?

When trash is buried or burned, all the natural resources used to make those products are lost.

With all the paper that humans throw away...

That’s like burying or burning billions of trees every year!

Exactly! And with all the water they waste, sometimes there is not enough in some places for everyone.

I hear that there are millions more humans on Earth every year. That means even more resources are used and more waste is created.
PROBLEM 3: DEALING WITH SO MUCH TRASH AND WASTEWATER IS VERY EXPENSIVE

TO KEEP ALL THESE SYSTEMS RUNNING, IT TAKES A LOT OF MONEY...

...AND A LOT OF ENERGY, USING UP EVEN MORE NATURAL RESOURCES!

SO...ARE THE EARTHLINGS DOOMED??

NO...

THERE ARE SOLUTIONS!
I’VE GOT IT!

PEOPLE NEED TO QUIT MAKING AND USING PRODUCTS SO THAT THEY DON’T HAVE WASTE!

NO... HUMANS NEED WATER, FOOD, PAPER, COMPUTERS, CANS, BOTTLES, AND BOXES. SO THERE WILL ALWAYS BE WASTE. BUT...

PEOPLE CAN REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF TRASH THEY PRODUCE! THEY CAN...

USE FEWER DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS, LIKE PAPER CUPS AND PLASTIC SILVERWARE.

USE ONLY AS MANY NAPKINS AND PAPER TOWELS AS REALLY NEEDED.

USE REUSABLE CONTAINERS AND BAGS INSTEAD OF PLASTIC OR PAPER.

BUY PRODUCTS WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF PACKAGING.
People can also reduce the amount of water they use by using water wisely. They can...

Take quick showers and fill the bathtub only part way up.

Turn the water off when they brush their teeth.

Wash only full loads in washing machines and dishwashers.

Wash dishes or food in a sink of water, not under running water!

And not flush trash down the toilet!

Huh?
HUMANS CAN REUSE PRODUCTS INSTEAD OF THROWING THEM AWAY. THEY CAN...

REUSE BOXES AND GIFT WRAPPING.

KEEP PLASTIC CONTAINERS TO STORE LEFTOVER FOOD OR OTHER THINGS.

REPAIR TOYS AND APPLIANCES INSTEAD OF BUYING NEW ONES.

GIVE ITEMS TO CHARITY OR TO OTHER PEOPLE INSTEAD OF THROWING THEM OUT.

AND PEOPLE CAN RECYCLE PAPER, METAL, GLASS, AND PLASTIC.

WHAT'S "RECYCLE"?

"RECYCLE" MEANS USING OLD PRODUCTS TO MAKE NEW ONES. TO RECYCLE, PEOPLE CAN...

USE RECYCLE BINS AT HOME, AT SCHOOL, AND IN PUBLIC.

OR THEY CAN TAKE ITEMS TO A RECYCLER IF THEY ARE NOT COLLECTED AT HOME.
CAN HUMANS REALLY DO ALL THIS?

YES! IT'S EASY...

PEOPLE JUST HAVE TO BALANCE THEIR NEEDS...

...WITH THE NEEDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

Ah... THEY SHOULD THINK ABOUT EARTH BECAUSE WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IS GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF EARTH!