

Use Phosphorus Free Detergents

Most household detergents contain high levels of phosphates (P). Phosphates are builders which decrease the hardness of water allowing the detergent to wash clothes, dishes and cars better. P also endangers our waterways. In unsewered areas, P from detergents eventually ends up in creeks, wetlands and rivers via groundwater. P from detergents used to wash cars on driveways can enter stormwater drains and then waterway systems. This feeds algal blooms in these waterways, kills some aquatic invertebrates and can be absorbed through the skin of frogs.

It's so *easy* to reduce phosphorus use at home and help ease the phosphorus load and threat to our waterways.

Buy products which do not contain P

Look for these words:

- zeolite
- alternative builders
- phosphorus or phosphate free

Avoid products containing P

Look for these words:

- STPP (sodium tri-polyphosphates)
- polyphosphates
- phosphate builders

Look for the following labels on clothes detergents:

NP

Means there is **NO PHOSPHORUS** in the product

P

Means there is a small amount of phosphorus in the product

Remember, biodegradable does not mean P free!

