

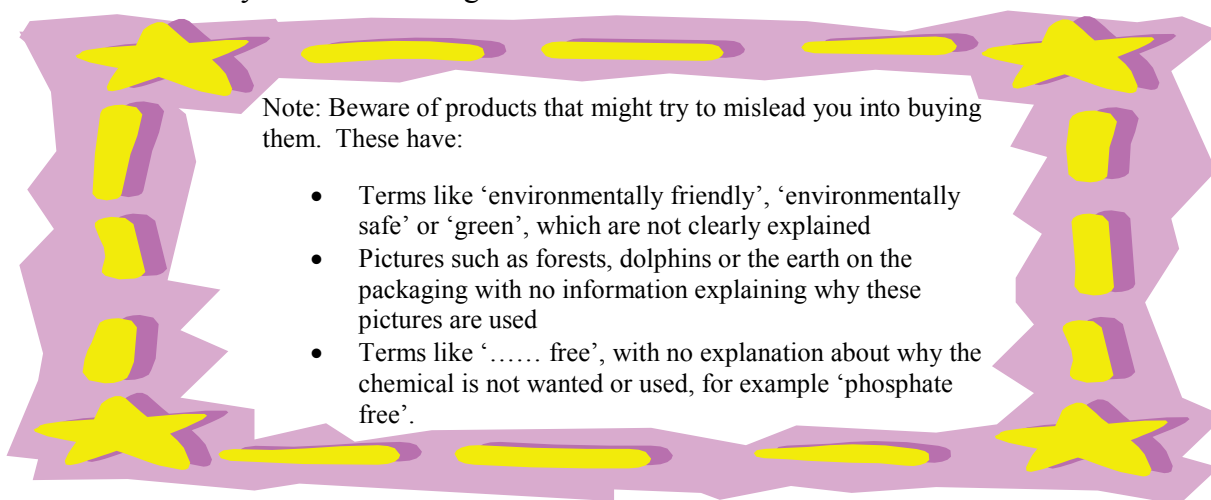
# Buyer Beware – Read the Labels!

Students need to bring in empty household cleaning packages (ten different packages are needed) and work in small groups to complete the worksheet.

1. Look at the packages in front of you. Choose five of them (write the name of the product under Package 1, etc.). Tick what is the main selling point for each of the products chosen.

Reason Why Chosen	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3	Package 4	Package 5
Packaging looks nice, has nice pictures or is colourful					
It is not harmful to the environment					
It smells good, clean or fresh					
It is strong or fast acting					
Has a really good ad on television					
You really like the name					
You use it at home					
Another reason, please state:					

2. Choose one product that you think is not harmful to the environment. Study its packaging carefully to make sure that you have made a good choice.



Note: Beware of products that might try to mislead you into buying them. These have:

- Terms like ‘environmentally friendly’, ‘environmentally safe’ or ‘green’, which are not clearly explained
- Pictures such as forests, dolphins or the earth on the packaging with no information explaining why these pictures are used
- Terms like ‘..... free’, with no explanation about why the chemical is not wanted or used, for example ‘phosphate free’.

- (a) Write the name of the product and your reason for choosing it.

\_\_\_\_\_

(name of product)

\_\_\_\_\_

(reason for choosing it)

- (b) Was it difficult to choose a product? Explain why.

3. In some countries all of the chemicals used to make a product must be listed on the packaging in detail. Do you think this should happen in Australia? Explain why.

**Write to your local Minister of Parliament and tell them of your concerns about misleading and not enough labeling on household cleaning packages.**