

Campaign for a Fishable/Swimmable Blackstone River by 2015

Clean Dishes and Clean Streams



Lawns/
Gardens

Using phosphate-free detergent in your dishwasher

WHY?

Dirty soapy water from your dishwasher flows into your septic system, and can leach into the nearest waterway, bringing with it lots of phosphorus. Phosphorus is a nutrient and causes excessive aquatic plant growth, maybe in your local swimming area. Even if your home is sewer, treatment plants don't remove all phosphorus, discharging some to waterways.

Car Care

Pet Waste

HOW?

◆ You can help improve water quality by using no- or low-phosphorus dishwasher detergent. Read labels and make sure phosphorus is not a listed ingredient. Most common brands of dishwasher detergent contain phosphorus, with the amount varying considerably by brand and by type, with the lesser amounts in gels and liquids, and greater amounts in powders and tablets/pacs. The chart shows percentage of phosphate by brand and type.

Clean
Dishes/
Clean
Streams

Rooftop
Runoff

Household
Hazardous
Waste

RESOURCES

This shelf survey was conducted at Big Y, Hannaford, Market Basket, Shaw's, Stop & Shop and Trader Joe's. Information is from the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services website
<http://www.des.state.nh.us/bb.htm>

Pervious
Surfaces

Stream
Buffers

BENEFITS

You reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our waterways and the wastewater treatment plants.

Automatic Dishwasher Detergent	% Phosphorus
Gel/Liquid	
Citrus Magic	0
Seventh Generation	0
Palmolive Gel	3.3
Electrasol Gel	3.7
Hannaford Gel	4.0
Best Yet Gel	4.0
Sunlight Gel	4.3
Cascade Liquid	4.5
Cascade Gel	4.5
Cascade Complete	5.0
Powder	
Trader Joe's	0
Electrasol	4.5
Sunlight 2 in 1	4.5
Hannaford	5.3
Cascade	6.4
Cascade Complete	6.9
Tablets/Pacs	
Sun & Earth Concentrated Pacs	0
Market Basket Tabs	8.0
Cascade 2-1 Pacs	8.0
Sunlight 3 in 1 Pacs	8.6
Electrasol Tabs	8.7
Electrasol 3 in 1 Tabs	8.7
Electrasol Gel Pacs	8.7
Dishwashing Liquid	
No phosphates allowed	0
Laundry Detergent	
No phosphates allowed	0

more →

