

CLEANING PRODUCTS

PHOSPHORUS (PHOSPHATES)

- Phosphorus (phosphates) in laundry detergents made whites whiter and in dishwasher detergent gave dishes and glasses a sparkly shine BUT it also acted as a fertilizer entering our septic and sewage systems and eventually our waterways causing excessive algae and aquatic plant growth.
- Government limits on phosphate concentrations in laundry detergent date back to the 70s; however, dishwasher detergents continued to contain phosphorus for more than another 30 years.
- IN 2010 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BANNED PHOSPHORUS IN HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS INCLUDING DISHWASHER DETERGENTS.
This was little publicized and many thought that their dishwasher was the cause of the not so clean looking dishes and cutlery.

THE NEXT STEP

CHOOSING CLEANING PRODUCTS THAT WILL NOT BE HARMFUL TO OUR LAKE

Now that phosphates have been banned in most products, the next step in keeping our lake healthy is to choose environmentally friendly products. This can be a daunting task as promises on many products sometimes amount to very little.

BIODEGRADABLE means that a product will decompose by natural processes in a reasonable amount of time and will not harm the good bacteria working in our septic systems.

Eco-Logo

LOOK FOR THIS SYMBOL



- EcoLogo is one of the oldest and most trusted eco-labeling programs, founded by the Government of Canada and now recognized worldwide. It is the official symbol and mark of Environment Canada.
- EcoLogo, also known as Environmental Choice indicates that a product has been certified for reduced environmental impact.

MOST STORES SELL GREEN PRODUCTS – SOME BRAND NAMES ARE:
 “Bio-Vert” “ATTITUDE” “natureclean” “Lemieux”
 NOT ALL PRODUCTS WITH A SPECIFIC BRAND NAME HAVE THE Eco-Logo SYMBOL
 IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THE LABEL

TSP (Trisodium Phosphate) is a very popular cleaning product that contains phosphates. Also available, “The TSPe” PHOSPHATE-FREE is recommended for use around lakes.