

4

Most Sunscreens Can Harm Coral Reefs. What Should Travelers Do?

🕒 February 19, 2018

Tags ▾ Categories ▾

Avoiding non-biodegradable sunscreen may be the one solution to coral bleaching travelers have the most immediate and direct influence over.

After decades of learning that sunblock is vital to a healthy beach vacation, consumers may wonder what's wrong. After decades of learning that sunblock is vital to a healthy beach vacation, consumers may wonder what's wrong with their Coppertone. But recent studies that link the active ingredients in protecting skin from damaging ultraviolet rays to coral bleaching has led to a global push for more reef-safe sunscreens.

Chemicals in sunscreen that come off while swimming or travel through sewage systems when washed off in the shower are "bigger than climate change," in causing coral reef damage, according to Craig Downs, the executive director of the Haereticus Environmental Laboratory based in Clifford, Va., which has studied the effects of sunscreen on coral reefs.

In 2015, Mr. Downs led a team that reported that oxybenzone, a common chemical found in sunscreens, is toxic to the symbiotic algae that live within corals, which provides their color and performs other vital duties, and also stunts the growth of corals. A 2008 European study published by Environmental Health Perspectives concluded that sunscreen promotes viral infection in corals that can lead to bleaching. They estimated that up to 14,000 tons of sunscreen is deposited in the world's oceans each year.

[Click here to read the whole story](#)



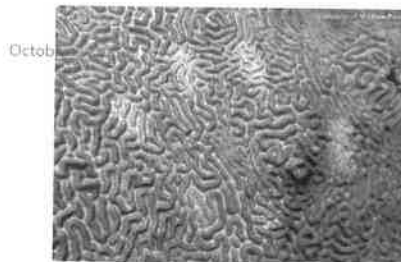
Recent studies have led to a global push for more reef-safe sunscreens. Credit: Chip Litherland for The New York Times

Related posts



Is your Sunscreen poisoning the Ocean?

🔗 Read more



World Economic Forum and Sunscreen Pollution

🔗 Read more



Disney Star Promotes Conservation in Hawaii

🔗 Read more

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

Post Comment

Are Your Products Safe?

We've come up with a list of chemicals and attributes in personal care products (e.g., sunscreen lotions and sprays) that are found in a number of different aquatic and marine ecosystems that can have a detrimental effect on their existence. We call this list of chemicals and physical-attributes the "HEL LIST." [See the list here](#)

Help Save The Reefs!

We need YOUR assistance ... so do the coral reefs of the world and the wildlife that depend on them. Your donation in support of our work to better conserve and restore threatened environmental habitats and resources is very much appreciated.

[Make a contribution today](#)

Recent posts

Is your Sunscreen poisoning the Ocean?

🕒 February 19, 2018



Most Sunscreens Can Harm Coral Reefs. What Should Travelers Do?

🕒 February 19, 2018



© 2016 Haereticus. All Rights Reserved. | Web Design by: 828 Marketing & Web Design