

C2 SIMPLY SUSTAINABLE

A Eco-Informative Newsletter -- Just for you!

DIRTY INGREDIENT #2: BENZOPHENONE

Introduction

Benzophenone is a compound that occurs naturally in some citrus fruits. It is a common ingredient that is used for UV protection in household and personal care products. It has the ability to absorb UV radiation and release it as heat. Benzophenone has several derivatives like Benzophenone-3 (Oxybenzone) and Benzophenone-4) which are also common ingredients.

What Products contain Benzophenone?

- Sunscreen
- Lip Balm
- Household Products

Regulations?

Benzophenone and its derivatives are approved for restricted use by the FDA but not completely banned. The derivative Oxybenzone can be used in concentrations no higher than 10% in the European Union. The state of Hawaii has actually banned the sale of sunscreens containing Oxybenzone, making them one of the first states to take legislative action to protect a marine ecosystem through a product ban.

UPCOMING CONTENT

POLYTETRAFLUOROETHYLENE
(PTFE, AKA TELFON)



Photography by A. Dulin

Location: Honduras

Environmental Risks

Benzophenone and its derivatives are most well known for their harm to marine ecosystems. Benzophenone and Oxybenzone found in sunscreens are damaging coral reefs and various marine life. The chemicals are stripping corals of their essential microalgae (zooxanthellae) and causing them to bleach and eventually die. Without the presence of their zooxanthellae, corals lose their source of food which results in the bleached or white look.

Corals are extremely important ecosystems in the ocean. They provide coastal protection and habitat to a wide variety of marine life. We have been losing coral reefs at an alarming rate and without them we will see extreme ecosystems shifts in the ocean.

Tip: Look for Zinc Oxide as a safe active ingredient in your sunscreen!



ABOUT THE WRITER:

HELLO, MY NAME IS ALEXIS DULIN. I AM A C2 TEAM MEMBER WHO REALLY CONSIDERS HERSELF A SISTER OF THE SEA WITH MERMAID TENDENCIES. I LOVE ALL THINGS "OCEAN." I HAVE A BACKGROUND IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND I AM EXCITED TO SHARE ALL MY KNOWLEDGE OF ECO-FRIENDLY INFORMATION AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES. THANKS FOR LISTENING AND SEND ME AN EMAIL IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION!

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