

# PHOSPHATE FINDER AND SULFATE SLEUTH

## WHAT IS A PHOSPHATE?

## WHAT IS A SULFATE?

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Find every cleaning product in your house (incl. household cleaners, soaps, detergents, shampoos, conditioners, body washes, bubble baths, etc...)
2. Count the total number of cleaning products you have and record below.
3. Look at the ingredients for each product and put aside those that contain phosphates or sulfates (for some products you may have to look up ingredients on the manufacturers website)
4. Count the number of products that contain phosphates, sulfates, or both and record below
5. Calculate the percentage of your household products that contribute to poor water quality.

# OF PRODUCTS  
CONTAINING  
PHOSPHATES

# OF PRODUCTS  
CONTAINING SULFATES

# OF PRODUCTS  
CONTAINING BOTH

TOTAL NUMBER  
OF CLEANING  
PRODUCTS

% OF PRODUCTS  
WITH PHOSPHATES

% OF PRODUCTS  
WITH SULFATES

% OF PRODUCTS  
WITH BOTH

# PHOSPHATE FINDER AND SULFATE SLEUTH

1. Pick one of your products that you found to contain either phosphates or sulfates.
2. Research its average retail price.
3. Then research an eco-friendly alternative and find its average retail price.

PRODUCT NAME:

AVERAGE PRICE:

ALTERNATE PRODUCT NAME:

AVERAGE PRICE:

**WHAT ARE THREE REASONS WHY A CONSUMER MIGHT CHOOSE A CLEANING PRODUCT CONTAINING PHOSPHATES AND SULFATES OVER AN ECO-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVE?**

1

2

3

**SHOULD IT BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONSUMER TO MAKE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CHOICES WITH THEIR PURCHASES, OR SHOULD IT BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTS TO PREVENT CORPORATIONS FROM MAKING WATER-POLLUTING PRODUCTS IN THE FIRST PLACE? EXPLAIN YOUR OPINION AND REASONING.**

