

Learn the ropes to your SOAPS

Soaps used for car washing or cleaning outside can flow to the storm drainage system and then to streams or the ocean, where they can harm fish or coral.

How can you find out if the products you're buying are safe for our rivers, oceans, and your health??

SAFETY DATA SHEETS

What are they?

Safety data sheets (SDSs) are required by law as of 2012 by Occupational Safety and Health Administration to ensure that chemical manufacturers provide users with information on product hazards.

How do I find them?

SDSs are usually available online. Find them simply by searching for the name and brand of your soap or cleaner, followed by "SDS."

What should I look for?

Biodegradable does not always mean environmentally friendly. If it's harmful to humans, it may be harmful to wildlife. Below are suggestions for quickly identifying hazards that may be associated with a product:

Accidental Release Measures

Environmental Precautions are outlined under this section.

Look for indications of the following:

- Warnings that the product is harmful if released into waterways or storm drain systems.
- Warnings to prevent product from contaminating soil.

Toxicological Information

This section outlines potential hazards for the user. Look for indications of the following:

- Inhalation hazards.
- Skin and eye irritants.
- Chemicals that may have long term effects, such as reproductive harm or cancer.

Note: Other areas in the SDS may reference potential environmental or health risks. It is important to review the entire sheet for full information on a product.

For more information, visit:

https://www.osha.gov/Publications/HazComm_QuickCard_SafetyData.html

