**PREVENTING POLLUTION: TRICLOSA N & TRICLOCARBAN**

Concern is growing about the presence in the environment of antibacterial compounds, such as triclosan, and its chemical cousin triclocarban. Triclosan and triclocarban are common ingredients in many everyday cleaning products such as hand soaps, dish and laundry soaps, personal care products such as toothpaste and mouthwash, and can be found in institutional, clinical, commercial and residential settings. These compounds can be washed down the drain, can persist through wastewater treatment, and make their way into waterways.

**FACTS ABOUT TRICLOSA N AND TRICLOCARBAN:**

- Triclosan and triclocarban have been detected in U.S. waterways
- Triclosan has been shown to bioaccumulate in fish and humans
- Triclosan is a thyroidal endocrine disruptor in aquatic organisms
- Scientists have raised concerns about bacterial resistance related to exposure to triclosan
- In the presence of UV light, triclosan degrades into a compound with dioxin-like characteristics
- Triclosan and triclocarban can persist through wastewater treatment and can be discharged into waterways and/or biosolids

According to the American Medical Association, “…the use of antimicrobial agents such as triclosan in consumer products has not been studied extensively. No data exist to support their efficacy when used in such products or any need for them, but increasing data now suggest there is little evidence to support the use of antimicrobials in consumer products such as topical hand lotions and soaps....Considering the available data and the critical nature of the antibiotic resistance problem, it may be prudent to avoid the use of antimicrobial agents in consumer products.”

**To prevent potential environmental pollution, consider alternatives antibacterial products containing triclosan and/or triclocarban. Alcohol-based sanitizers have been shown to be effective in health care settings.**

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