

ARE CORAL REEFS DISAPPEARING FASTER THAN RAIN FORESTS?

W

e all know the staggering and frightening statistics about our rainforests disappearing. **The environmental call to action is called "Going Green," but what about... Blue?** Specifically, what do we really know about the health of our oceans?

Researchers are now reporting that coral reefs around the world are becoming bleached out and dying due to swimmers who are contaminating the sea with sunscreen. The obligatory SPF that we all slather on in order to prevent our skin from the harmful rays that cause skin cancer, wrinkles and age spots is endangering our undersea world. Researchers estimate that 4,000 to 6,000 metric tons of sunscreen wash off of swimmers around the globe, threatening zooxanthellae, the food energy that through photosynthesis, creates the vibrant colors of the coral reefs. Harmful algae viruses can bleach out and ruin a coral reef in a matter of days. Researchers are now studying the exact effects of the chemicals that most sunscreens commonly contain: paraben, cinnamate, benzophenone, and a camphor

derivative.

There are ways to reduce the impact of SPF on coral reefs; try a sun block with actual physical filters that reflect the sun, instead of absorbing the UV rays. Another option is an eco-friendly sunscreen that indicates it is safe for our seas. Australian scientists are currently studying a natural ultraviolet-blocking compound that is found in coral in hopes of creating a safe SPF that not only protects our coral reefs, but mimics the very thing that we are trying to protect.

~ Skye
MacBroom



Are Americans suffering from eco-saturation?

Green, eco-friendly, and environmentally conscience buzzwords have become over-used and misunderstood. See? We

just used all of those phrases ourselves in one sentence! Is the going green incentive and all of the marketing language that supports the green industry giants becoming ubiquitous? Is it worth shelling out the green to go green? Are bamboo floors attractive and worth the cost to you? If you don't go green, do you think you'll be ostracized? Do you feel social pressures to say, bring organic wine, to certain friends' homes? Maybe a nudist colony is the way to go? Naked is clean, right? Have you tried, or heard of, sneakers made out of old rubber tires? Does that sound appealing or gross? Nike is making waves.... Do you believe that retread rugs should be all the rage? Sound Off Sages! Email us at news@fiftyandfurthermore.com to share your thoughts.

~Dr. Dorree Lynn & Skye MacBroom

For high end eco conscience luxury goods for the home visit <http://www.roche-bobois.com>

rochebobois
PARIS

