



EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

SUNSCREEN: PROTECT YOUR SKIN AND THE PLANET

Sunscreen is important for your health but make sure your sunscreen also protects our waters and wildlife. When you swim, splash, or shower your sunscreen washes off and enters our waterways, harming marine life including fish, kelp, algae, and marine mammals.

READ LABELS

When shopping for sunscreen, look for a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher as well as the following labels:

- **Reef-safe or reef-friendly.** While there is no legal definition of reef-safe, products with this label have ingredients generally considered safer for the environment.
- **Mineral.** Mineral sunscreens offer sun protection by creating a UV-reflecting barrier on skin. They are not absorbed into the skin so will leave a white residue indicating they are functioning correctly.
- **Biodegradable.** These sunscreens are made without chemicals that harm marine life, and the ingredients will eventually break down over time.
- **Cruelty free.** Many sunscreens sold in the U.S. are still tested on animals. Credible cruelty free labels such as the leaping bunny verify the product has not been tested on animals.

INGREDIENTS

Check the active ingredients label on the back of the sunscreen container. Look for mineral-based zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, common active ingredients that protect skin and are considered better for the environment.

In contrast, harmful sunscreen ingredients include the very common oxybenzone and octinoxate as well as octocrylene, homosalate, 4-methylbenzylidene



camphor, para-aminobenzoic acid, parabens, and triclosan.

Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Florida Keys have banned the sale of sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate chemicals because of their damage to marine life, notably coral reefs. The nonprofit Surfrider Foundation is campaigning for the U.S. to ban these sunscreen ingredients from all national marine sanctuaries.

AVOID SPRAYS

Applying sunscreen to wriggly children can be a challenge, but avoid using sprays or misting applicators. By spraying sunscreen, the chemical ingredients are more widely dispersed, polluting the ground as well as the air where they can be inhaled. Cream or stick sunscreens ensure the product is applied directly to the skin.

PREFERRED BRANDS

Fortunately, there are many

sunscreen brands that use mineral, reef-safe ingredients, including Manda, Avasol, Raw Elements, Sun Bum, Alba Botanica, and Bare Republic. Many Coronado retailers offer these brands, which provide sun protection and limit environmental harm.

As you enjoy the summer — especially in the ocean or the bay — reach for sunscreen that protects your skin and keeps Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.

For more information visit [EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG](https://www.emeraldkeepers.org)