



Reflecting the best of **British**



16th June 2021

To whom it may concern,

Phosphates in Cleaning Products

Phosphates are chemical compounds created when phosphorous combines with oxygen. This compound has an incredible range of uses from cleaning to baking to medical care.

In detergents phosphates are primarily used as “chelating agents”; they help to soften hard water. They do this by preventing calcium and magnesium ions in tap water from binding with the surfactants in the product. This has the main benefits of removing any insoluble soap scum and improving cleaning as less of these surfactants are lost as scum.

The focal point of the argument against phosphates in cleaning products revolves around what happens when a high concentration of phosphorus gathers in a body of water. While normal levels act as a nutrient for aquatic life, too much phosphorous can cause eutrophication, where the plant life in a lake, pond, or stream overgrows and limits the amount of oxygen the animal and plant life receives. This is commonly referred to as an ‘algae bloom’. Essentially, the plant organisms in the water are over-fed and grow faster than the water can regulate itself.

Whilst this is naturally reversed over time, we took the step of removing any phosphates from our products and so we are proud to state that all detergent products manufactured by Autoglym are phosphate free.

Regards,

Daniel Higgs
Regulatory Affairs Advisor
dhig@autoglym.com

