

SUNSCREEN IN THE USA

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2019

The New York Times

Key West Bans Sunscreen Containing Chemicals Believed to Harm Coral Reefs



The Newyork Times

Key West, the sunny city at the southernmost tip of Florida, voted this week to ban the sale of sunscreen containing chemicals believed to harm coral reefs.

The law's supporters see it as a crucial step toward protecting the great treasure of the Florida Keys: the world's third-largest barrier reef ecosystem, which runs nearly 150 miles, hosts thousands of species of marine life, and attracts divers and snorkelers from around the globe.

More information:

<https://nyti.ms/2WNdQbz>

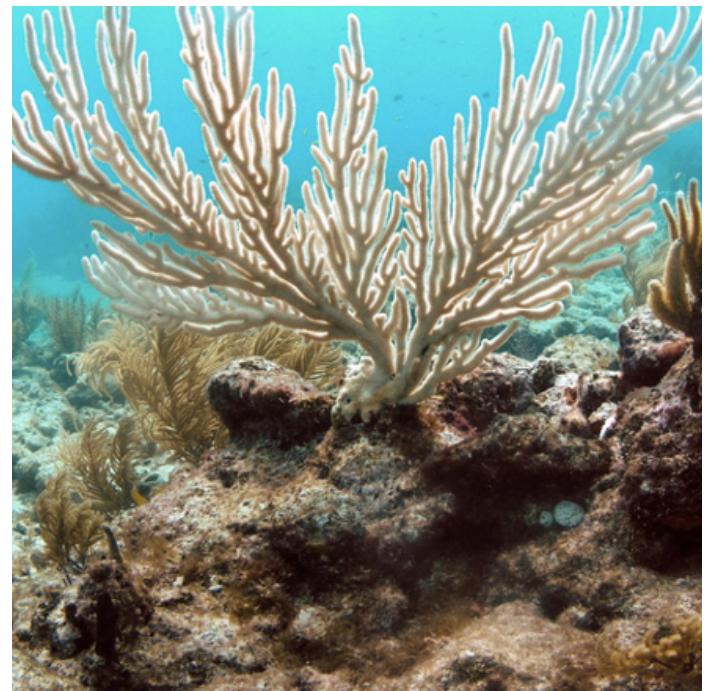
CNBC Health

Sunscreens that cause harm to coral reef banned in Key West

Researchers say the chemicals lead to bleaching, DNA damage and death of the corals.

City officials in Key West voted to ban sunscreens containing two ingredients that scientists have said are harmful to the coral reef ecosystem. In a 6-1 vote Tuesday, the Key West City Commission banned the sale of sunscreens using oxybenzone and octinoxate beginning on Jan. 1, 2021.

More information: <https://nbcnews.to/2Kl7xGI>



† coral off Islamorada, Florida, in 2014. Smith Collection / via Getty Images



BBC

Palau is set to become the first country to impose a widespread ban on sunscreen in an effort to protect its vulnerable coral reefs. The government has signed a law that restricts the sale and use of sunscreen and skincare products that contain a list of ten different chemicals.

Researchers believe that these ingredients are highly toxic to marine life, and can make coral more susceptible to bleaching.

The ban comes into force in 2020.

More information: <https://bbc.in/2JvAS0t>

National Geographic

The sunscreen problem

When you swim with sunscreen on, chemicals like oxybenzone can seep into the water, where they're absorbed by corals. These substances contain nanoparticles that can disrupt coral's reproduction and growth cycles, ultimately leading to bleaching.

More information: <https://on.natgeo.com/2HuusAW>



U.S. Food & Drink

Required Warning Statement for Tanning Products Without Sunscreen

FDA is requiring this warning statement so that consumers are fully informed that such products do not provide protection from the sun.

The term "suntanning preparations" includes gels, creams, liquids, and other topical products that are intended to provide cosmetic effects on the skin while tanning through exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation (such as moisturizing or conditioning products) or to give the appearance of a tan by imparting color to the skin through the application of approved color additives, such as dihydroxyacetone, without the need for exposure to UV radiation.

More information: <https://bit.ly/2MlsTwq>

DR Mehmet Oz

Chemical sunscreens, on the other hand—which contain ingredients such as oxybenzone, avobenzone and homosalate—work by absorbing the sun’s rays. Oxybenzone and octinoxate are the two chemicals specifically banned by the new legislation. Although the ban won’t go into place until 2021, it’s not a bad idea to get in the habit of purchasing reef-safe sunscreen now.



More information: <https://bit.ly/2M6PeIE>
<https://bit.ly/2Tcn3Jm>
<https://bit.ly/2OZyKoj>

**Ideas for us**

The city of Key West, one of Florida’s most visited cities, has joined Hawaii and the country of Palau to ban sunscreen lotions with the chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate in efforts to protect their own coral reefs. Oxybenzone and octinoxate are commonly used chemicals in most popular, store brand sunscreens. The ban had been approved by the City of Commission from a 6 to 1 vote in February 2019, where it will go in effect on January 1st 2021.

More information: <https://bit.ly/31g3Ads>
<https://bit.ly/33gDitn>
<https://bit.ly/2rdICML>

Chemical Watch

US FDA questions ingredient safety in sunscreen regulations update

As part of a major proposed update to its sunscreen product regulations, the US Food and Drug Administration is seeking additional data on the majority of currently marketed active ingredients before allowing their continued use. The proposed rule comes as part of the FDA’s effort to put into effect a final monograph for over-the-counter (OTC) sunscreens, as required by the 2014 Sunscreen Innovation Act.

More information: <https://bit.ly/2M5cze6>