

# Campaign to Protect and Restore the Taunton River Watershed

## Clean Dishes and Clean Streams



Lawns/  
Gardens

Using phosphate-free detergent in your dishwasher

### WHY?

Dirty soapy water from your dishwasher flows into your septic system, and can leach into the nearest waterway, bringing with it lots of phosphorus. Phosphorus is a nutrient and causes excessive aquatic plant growth, maybe in your local swimming area. Even if your home is sewer, treatment plants don't remove all phosphorus, discharging some to waterways.

Car Care

Pet Waste

### HOW?

◆ You can help improve water quality by using no- or low-phosphorus dishwasher detergent. Read labels and make sure phosphorus is not a listed ingredient. Most common brands of dishwasher detergent contain phosphorus, with the amount varying considerably by brand and by type, with the lesser amounts in gels and liquids, and greater amounts in powders and tablets/pacs. The chart shows percentage of phosphate by brand and type.

Clean  
Dishes/  
Clean  
Streams

Rooftop  
Runoff

Household  
Hazardous  
Waste

### RESOURCES

This shelf survey was conducted at Big Y, Hannaford, Market Basket, Shaw's, Stop & Shop and Trader Joe's. Information is from the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services website: <http://des.nh.gov/index.htm>

Pervious  
Surfaces

Stream  
Buffers

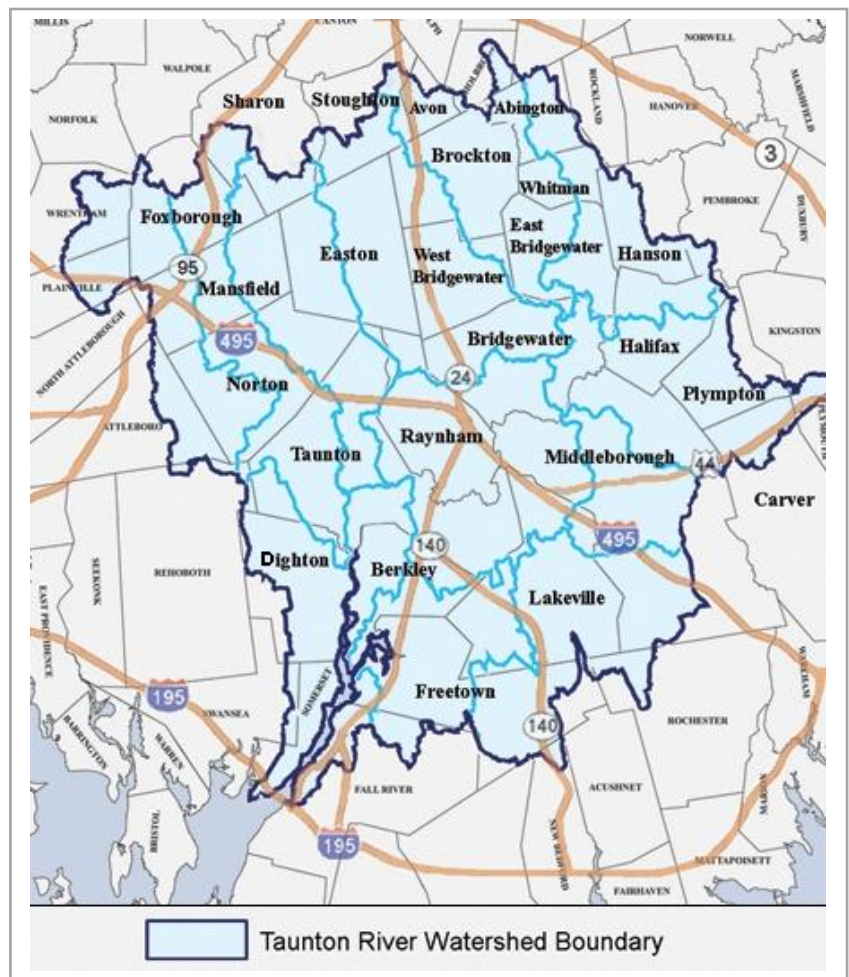
### BENEFITS

You reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our waterways and the wastewater treatment plants.

Automatic Dishwasher Detergent	% Phosphorus
<b>Gel/Liquid</b>	
Citrus Magic	0
Seventh Generation	0
Palmolive Gel	3.3
Electrasol Gel	3.7
Hannaford Gel	4.0
Best Yet Gel	4.0
Sunlight Gel	4.3
Cascade Liquid	4.5
Cascade Gel	4.5
Cascade Complete	5.0
<b>Powder</b>	
Trader Joe's	0
Electrasol	4.5
Sunlight 2 in 1	4.5
Hannaford	5.3
Cascade	6.4
Cascade Complete	6.9
<b>Tablets/Pacs</b>	
Sun & Earth Concentrated Pacs	0
Market Basket Tabs	8.0
Cascade 2-1 Pacs	8.0
Sunlight 3 in 1 Pacs	8.6
Electrasol Tabs	8.7
Electrasol 3 in 1 Tabs	8.7
Electrasol Gel Pacs	8.7
<b>Dishwashing Liquid</b>	0
No phosphates allowed	
<b>Laundry Detergent</b>	0
No phosphates allowed	

more →

If you live within the shaded area on the map, then you live in the Taunton River watershed.



**The Taunton River Watershed Alliance** is a non-profit alliance of concerned individuals, businesses and organizations who are dedicated to protecting and restoring the Taunton River watershed, its tributaries, wetlands, floodplains, river corridors and wildlife. For more information contact TRWA advocate Priscilla Chapman at 508-828-1104 or [pchapman@massaudubon.org](mailto:pchapman@massaudubon.org).

This guide was adapted from the Blackstone River Coalition's "Tackling Stormwater" series.

