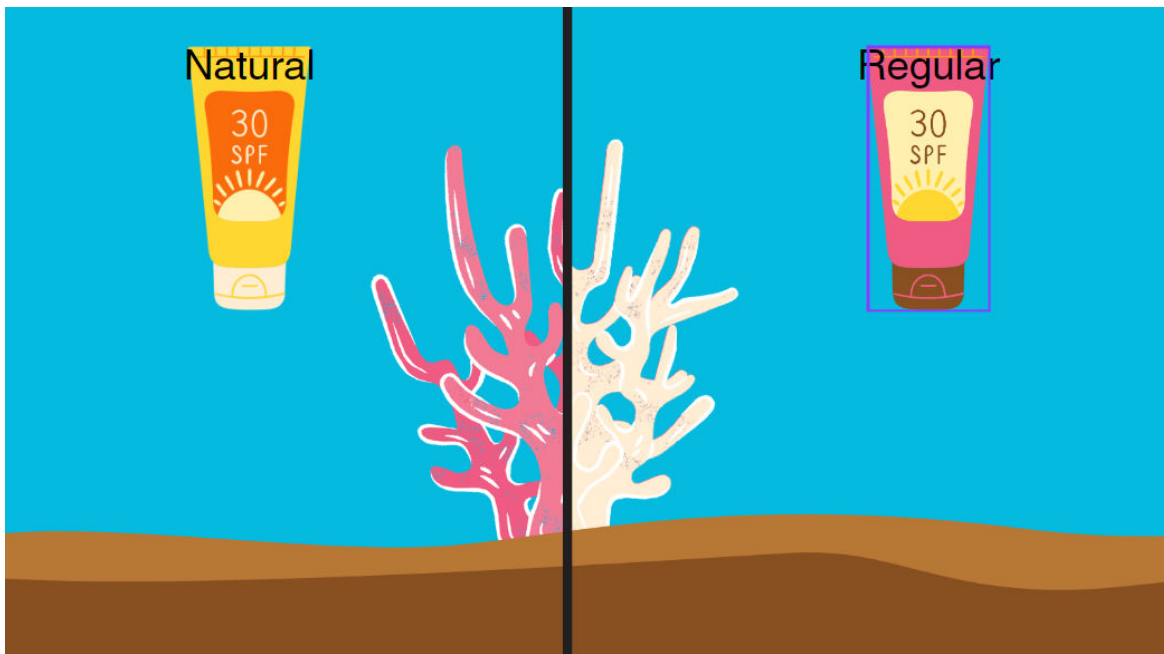# Like Sunscreen, but BETTER!

Coral reefs, which are vital to our ocean's health, are facing threats with up to 10% of them being at risk of sunscreen-induced bleaching. Certain chemicals in regular sunscreens can harm coral ecosystems. By making informed choices, you can contribute to preserving marine life.

Choose Reef-Friendly Sunscreens:
Opt for sunscreens without harmful chemicals like Butylparaben, ethylhexyl methoxycinnamate, benzophenone-3, and 4-methylbenzylidene, particularly Oxybenzone. These chemicals can disrupt the symbiotic relationship between corals and algae, leading to bleaching and potential coral death.

Certain sunscreen chemicals, such as Oxybenzone, can disrupt the endocrine systems of marine life, impacting their reproductive and developmental processes. Here's how these chemicals affect different marine organisms:
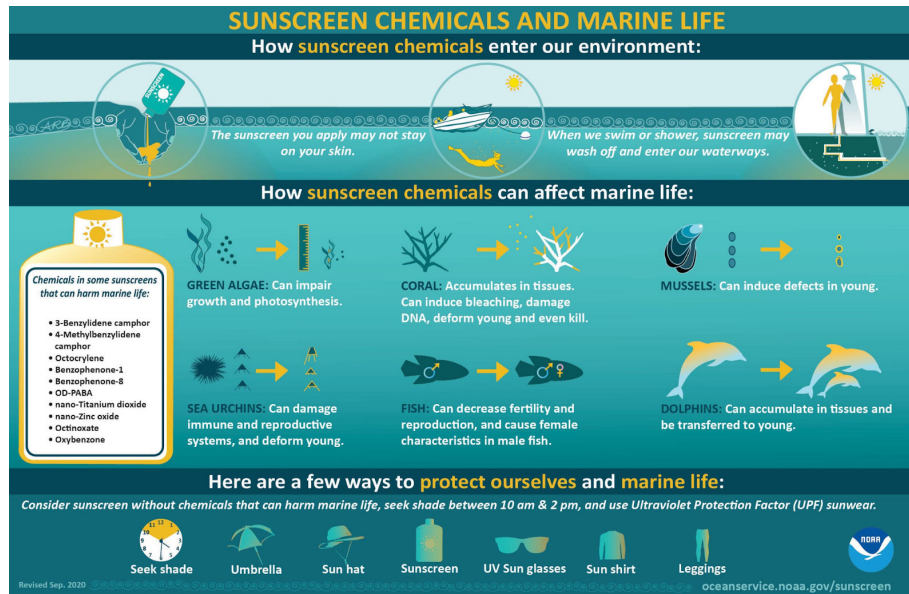
Sunscreen chemicals and coral reefs. (n.d.).

https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/sunscreen-corals.html

Sun Safety Practices:
In addition to choosing reef-friendly sunscreens, adopt sun-safe practices:
- Seek shade between 10 am and 2 pm when the sun's rays are strongest.
- Consider using Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) sunwear for added protection.

More information can be found on:

Cho, R. (2019, December 10). Losing our coral reefs. State of the Planet. https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2011/06/13/losing-our-coral-reefs/
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969720351056
https://www.coraldigest.org/index.php/Sunscreen#:~:text=Oxybenzone%20also%20causes%20endocrine%2C%20or,mature%20and%20larval%20coral%20organisms.
https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2011/06/13/losing-our-coral-reefs/
https://www.coraldigest.org/index.php/Sunscreen#:~:text=Oxybenzone%20also%20causes%20endocrine%2C%20or,mature%20and%20larval%20coral%20organisms.

What if we use chemical sunscreen instead of natural-based sunscreen.

○ The water will be clearer

○ The fish will be glowing

○ The user will change colour

○ The corals will be harmed