

# THINK BLUE TO GO GREEN

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## Home Safe Home

When you go to the grocery store with your parents, have you ever noticed there are new cleaning products that say organic, or all natural? There are a lot of chemicals in soaps and disinfectants, so some companies want to Think Blue To Go Green, by offering more environmentally friendly products. Have you ever wondered what makes soap bubble up? A substance called phosphate helps that sudsy effect, but too much of it means trouble. Phosphate is a nutrient that can cause algae to grow. Too much phosphate in the water, means too much algae. Too much algae takes up oxygen and blocks sunlight that fish and plants need to survive.

We learned in previous lessons, that all chemicals and cleaning agents, can make their way to water through runoff. So you can help Think Blue To Go Green when you're cleaning up around your house. There are plenty of natural cleaners that work just as well as their chemical counterparts. Vinegar, baking soda, salt and lemon juice are just some of these options. Vinegar kills germs and deodorizes. Baking soda is a good scrubber and it absorbs odors. Take a look in your refrigerator and see if your mom has a box in there right now to keep your fridge smelling fresh. Lemon juice smells great and can be mixed with a little olive oil to make a great furniture polish. Sorry kids, no one has invented a Think Blue To Go Green way to pick up your toys and clothes. You still have to do that in your room. Just think of it as your own, personal environment!

### Activities

Look up these common household chemical ingredients and list what products you might find them in:

- Sodium Lauryl Sulfate
- Triclosan
- Ammonia

Make a natural all-purpose cleaner for your classroom. Using a new, clean spray bottle, add equal parts of vinegar and water. The cleaner may smell like salad but when it dries there is no smell left behind.

"Home Safe Home" is just one of the programs presented by the Oklahoma Aquarium Education Department. Log onto [www.okaquarium.org](http://www.okaquarium.org) to learn more about scheduling a field trip for your class to Oklahoma's only ocean!



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