



Do you have a white film on your dishes after they go through the dishwasher?

It may be your dishwasher detergent!

Recently, some EMWD customers have noticed a white film residue on their dishes after going through the dishwasher, which is usually attributed to hard water. However, it's not the water that has changed...dishwasher detergents are changing.

Local and state legislation in 16 states have banned the use of phosphates in dishwasher detergents. As a result, many manufacturers have changed their formulas nationwide.



Historically, phosphates in automatic dishwashing detergent have helped with food and grease removal by suspending the soils in the wash water so they don't stick to the dishes. It also helped soften the water, which reduces spotting and filming during the wash cycle.

The phosphates from those detergents enter the sewer system and, even after the wastewater is treated, it still contains unnaturally high levels of phosphates. When treated wastewater is discharged into local rivers, streams and other waterways, so are the phosphates.

Phosphates stimulate the growth of algae and other aquatic plants. However, too much algae in a stream or lake blocks the sunlight available for other aquatic plants, which start to die. With an excessive amount of algae decomposing the oxygen in the waterways, fish and other aquatic species begin to die.

To reduce spotting and film residues, EMWD recommends that customers consult with their dishwasher manufacturer and /or Consumer Reports to find the best phosphate free dishwasher detergent as well as the use of a good rinse agent.