

The Toxicity of Surfing

Unintended Consequences of Stoke

As surfing grows as a sport and as an industry, its impact on the environment grows as well. Surfing has evolved into a multi-billion dollar industry that is completely dependent on the environment, yet pays little attention to protecting it.

Even for those looking to minimize their environmental impact, sustainable surfing products can be tough to find. Here are some of the facts; now it's up to you to make the right decisions.

20 Million

Surfers World Wide

Although it is impossible to determine the exact number of surfers in the world, studies estimate between 17 and 23 million surfers worldwide.

8 Times

If all the surfers in the world lined up, they would span across the United States **8 times** coast to coast.



QUICK FACTS

New Surfboards made each year	400,000
Bars of surf wax used each year	6 Million
Wetsuit scraps each year	250 Tons
Coral Reefs that are threatened	60%

SURFBOARDS

400,000

New Surfboards are made each year from toxic foams and synthetic resins

During shaping, **20%** of the foam is wasted and ends up in landfills

CO₂ A shortboard weighs about 5.5 lbs. This causes over 600 lbs of CO₂ to be emitted during the lifecycle of manufacturing, repairs, and disposal.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and dangerous isocyanates are found in Polyurethane blanks.

Majority of fins and fin plugs are made from polyester resin and fiberglass or petroleum based plastic.

THE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

There are some great alternatives to polyurethane boards. Longevity is a major concern with surfboards. EPS/epoxy boards are not only less toxic, but are more durable and last longer. Substitutes for fiberglass and styrene based resins can even be made from bamboo and other natural ingredients, resulting in a lighter, stronger, less toxic surfboard.

WETSUITS

250 TONS

of neoprene is scrapped each and every year

Made from neoprene, a synthetic rubber produced from petroleum products.

Glue and solvents used in the lamination and gluing process evaporate and pollute the atmosphere.

Wetsuits are made with toxic chemicals, including PVC. PVC is the most toxic plastic for our health and environment.

NOT biodegradable

THE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

Some companies do not use PVC in their wetsuits, which eliminates a major source of toxins. By using new technology and innovation, wetsuits are also becoming more durable and efficient for their thickness. Thinner suits use less neoprene and are better for the environment.

SURF WAX

6 million bars of wax are used each and every year!



Surf wax is commonly made from oil by-products. Its environmental effects are felt by all kinds of marine organisms.

THE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

There are a handful of petroleum-free surf waxes out there which are made from natural ingredients. They are more environmentally friendly and performance is not compromised.

SUNSCREEN

Poisonous Ingredients

Sunscreens contain Benzophenone, Homosalate, and Octinoxate which disrupt our hormone levels while Padimate-O and Parsol 1789 cause DNA damage when exposed to sunlight.

4 out of 5 Sunscreens contain chemicals that may pose health risks

Oxybenzone

A chemical ingredient found in sunscreens. It's been linked to cell damage, allergies and hormone disruption.

97%

Of Americans have it in their blood stream RIGHT NOW!

THE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

Sunscreens which lack these harmful chemicals are easily available. They work just as well and do not cost more. When buying sunscreen, it is important to check the ingredients and make sure it doesn't use ingredients that are harmful.

Sunscreen chemicals awaken dormant viruses in symbiotic algae, causing it to burst, which kills the coral and spreads the virus.

6,000 Tons of sunscreen ends up in the ocean each year. It bleaches coral and threatens 10% of coral reefs worldwide!