

# THE SALT TO MY SOAP

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Living in Malaysia we are blessed with arrays of coastline. As the sun shines throughout the year, some people even make it a way of life to be by the beach at very regular intervals. Malaysians generally enjoy having picnics by the beach and swimming in the sea; thus, washing up is regularly perform following the said activities. Cleansing however is far from effective when it comes to sea water.

Soaps or other foamy detergent do not work well with the presence of saltwater. This scenario is caused by a culprit known as hard water.

The easiest example of hard water is any water that is not treated. It contains significant amount of mineral such as calcium, magnesium, sulphates and sometimes copper, making it difficult for conventional soaps to foam – and foam is the agent that takes away impurities. On top of that, foam also plays a role in psychological effect that influence one's satisfaction or feeling of completeness when cleansing.

Hard water is normally found in the area where water is not treated before consumption either in the households or processing premises. It can also affect the whole area due to geographic factor. The effect of hard water includes dryness of hair and scalp, discoloration of hair, and eczema to some. Besides, it also reduces the effectiveness of cleansing agent such as shampoo as well as detergent that is used to clean clothes and utensils. Hard water may also deteriorate the quality of certain equipment.



Hard water makes cleaning solution less effective; hence, cleansing procedure is almost always incomplete. This can be seen not only on utensils or equipment, but also on human body.

***"As the products tolerate well with minerals, cleaning and washing up will be more effective which allow us to enjoy more picnics and swims in the future".***

Washing hair after a swim in the sea is impossible to be done thoroughly in a single wash if one is using a conventional cleansing agent. It requires another round (or more) of washing up until one feels satisfactorily cleansed. This is not an ideal situation when you look forward to proceeding to other activities post swimming. As time is a constraint especially during vacation, people prefer not to dwell in a repetitive time-consuming activity.

The solution to this problem is to use a soap that can react with the presence of minerals. An example of home-made solution is by using soda bicarbonate. The powder will turn into paste as one lather oneself and proceed with rinsing. This makes showers or cleaning up becomes more satisfactory.

Incorporating coconut oil during washing up is also said to be effective to expel hard water easily. Another option is by using product known as demineralizer, which is created purposely to overcome this problem. Although some of the items it is not easily available in our market, it is an option for consumer when considering any activity involving hard water. As the products tolerate well with minerals, cleaning and washing up will be more effective which allow us to enjoy more picnics and swims in the future.

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