



by jok church

myQuestion@beakman.com

Hey Beakman,
 After you brush your
 teeth, orange juice
 tastes awful. What's
 going on?

Dan Mires
 Smithtown, Tennessee

Beakman or Jax
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 Questions, name & address

Google: cariology

: STUFF TO DO :

Shake lots of pepper onto a bowl of still, calm water.
 Make a film of pepper – you know, way lots.
 Put a small dab of toothpaste onto the end of a
 toothpick and touch the paste onto the pepper film.
 The pepper should spread apart.
 What happened is that the chemical with the long
 name is a detergent, close to being soap, and it

breaks a kind of film that water makes on top of
 itself, called surface tension.
 Something close to that happens on your taste
 buds. And it changes your taste buds into tasting
 only a part of what's really there.

Hey Dan,
 A chemical in toothpaste gets your taste buds
 mixed up, and it's in all toothpastes, even the fancy
 stuff from Maine.
 The chemical is sodium lauryl sulfate and it's in
 toothpaste as a kind of fake-out. Its job is to make
 foam. But foam, pretty much, just makes us feel
 good. The real work of toothpaste is done by fine
 abrasives, like chalk, that grind away at the junk on
 your teeth.

Beakman
 Beakman Place

Your taste buds are covered with a thin skin that
 is made out of stuff that's very close to being a fat.
 The foaming stuff in toothpaste breaks that thin skin
 and changes the way your taste buds work.
 It shuts off the sweet tasters and changes the
 sour/acid tasters into the bitter tasters. Since o.j. is
 sweet and sour/acid, you end up tasting bitter
 only – what
 you called awful.



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