

„And the paint is off!“

New paint stripper based on DBE[®] removes old layers and graffiti both efficiently and without harming the environment



Photo: DuPont

Whether it is old paint on buildings or undesired graffiti, both can be removed easily and without harming the environment with the new paint stripper from STS - based on DBE[®].

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May 2001 - - STS Surface Treatment Systems AS, Oslo/Norway, has launched a new paint stripper using a solvent formulation based on the non-classified, readily biodegradable DBE[®] dibasic esters from DuPont. They replace methylene chloride (dichloromethane), a solvent problematic to health and ecology, commonly used in paint strippers to date. Besides high efficiency, the new stripper is also easy to use. All common surfaces such as plaster, stone or even steel can be easily cleaned of unwanted paint.

The environmentally friendly paint stripper is applied to the selected surface with a brush or sprayed with an airless-instrument. With this system it is not necessary to wear respirators, as is mandatory when working with other paint strippers that contain methylene chloride. The formulation's long open time allows the treatment of large surfaces all in one go, even a complete building. The paint stripper penetrates over night deep into the coating layers and swells even several layers in one treatment. After the treatment, the old paint can be removed from the surface with a spatula or can be washed away with a water jet. The resulting wastewater can be taken to a sewage works for biological purification – only the coating residues need to be handled as chemical waste.

Classic paint strippers were often favoured because of their broad areas of application and their fast penetration. The latter also brings with it the disadvantage that several layers of coatings can only be treated one after the other and large surfaces have to be stripped as a series of smaller segments. It is also well known that chlorinated hydrocarbons (CHC), like dichlormethane carry a toxicological risk potential.

Thus STS was on the look-out for halogen-free solvent alternatives with a low ecological and toxicological risk classification, and selected DBE[®] from DuPont after numerous comparison tests. STS, specialised in the restoration of building facades, today only uses DBE[®]-based paint strippers.

News Release

In comparison to other commonly used solvents DBE[®] offers many additional advantages. The high flashpoint of 103 °C and the low toxicological risk potential offer a high degree of safety: DBE[®] is not classified according to EU criteria and is therefore not considered as dangerous chemical. The high solvency power often reduces the volume of solvent required. Furthermore DBE[®] is readily biodegradable. DBE[®] containing wastewater can be treated by standard wastewater technology. It is composed of the di-methyl esters of glutaric, succinic and adipic acids – all of which are also present in nature.

This press release is based on information from:

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DBE[®] is a trademark from INVISTA Technologies S.a.r.l.
Koch Industries Inc. acquired INVISTA, formerly DuPont Textiles & Interiors on April 30, 2004.