



Vat reg. No. 600816574

DESIGNED TO BE KIND

Professional  
Chemical Products

## Safe Paint & Varnish Remover News January 2009

There are currently three reasons for change regarding paint remover and other chemical products. These are

1. **Safety Regulations**, including risk assessments for employees (in storage, in transport and in use), and others, e.g. members of the public who may be present, tenants of a council house, etc.
2. **Environmental Regulations**.
3. **Technical, performance requirements**.

Action Products Ltd **Safe Paint & Varnish Remover** not only addresses all these concerns but it also works *and* brings significant and measurable benefits on all three counts, helping to meet current and future regulatory requirements. Action Products are safe-to-use and do not damage the environment whilst maintaining performance.

### Safety Regulations

Article 6 of Council Directive 98/24/EC on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work states;

*“employers are required by preference to avoid the use of a hazardous chemical agent by replacing it with a chemical agent or process which, under its condition of use, is not hazardous or less hazardous to workers’ safety and health, and only to apply protection and prevention measures where such substitution is not possible.”*

See Official Journal of the European Union L131, 5.5 1998 p.11.

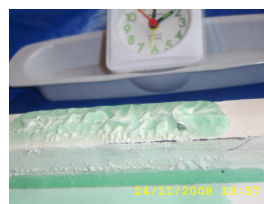
### Environmental Regulations

Some of you will know that it has always been the formulating policy of Action Products Ltd to use non-toxic, non-corrosive, biodegradable ingredients. This policy led us to adopt the phrase, **“Designed to be kind”** and it means that every single ingredient in Action Products’ formulations falls into the approved, green category as described in the European Commission Handbook SEC (2004) 1050. This is valuable information regarding work for councils and other public bodies. The fact that all the ingredients (and hence the products) are non-toxic and non-corrosive will have a significant and helpful impact on the risk assessments.

Furthermore, the fact that all the ingredients are approved as part of the EC Green Procurement Programme will assist in meeting sustainability targets (see below).

### Technical, performance requirements

In Action Products **Safe Paint & Varnish Remover** (Patented EU and US), toxic solvents have been replaced with safe surfactants, all biodegradable to the latest EU standards. This creates a different kind of product, which soaks into the material to be removed, making it soft and squasy and easy to scrape away. ***It never needs to be left overnight.*** All treated residues will be fully water washable, removing the need for either white spirit or methylated spirits.





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Action Products **Safe Paint & Varnish Remover** is a better product than the old fashioned Methylene Chloride ones, because it can remove acrylic primer and modern, water based paints and varnishes as well as old fashioned gloss paints and spirit based varnishes.

**Guidance for Responsible Public Procurement of Cleaning Products**

In 2004 the European Commission published “Handbook SEC(2004) 1050” to give guidance to the Public Sector on procuring “green” products and services. This forms one part of the Commission’s “Green Public Procurement” (GPP) initiative.

In this handbook, chemical ingredients are categorized using a traffic light system, in which:

Green	<b>No issue for procurement</b>	Can be used
Amber	<b>Guidance highlighted in amber</b>	Don't use if possible
Red	<b>Guidance highlighted in red</b>	Do not use

Action Products ingredients fall wholly into the approved, green category.

For the full handbook please see: [http://www.eauc.org.uk/file\\_uploads/bacs\\_pptf\\_1\\_2.pdf](http://www.eauc.org.uk/file_uploads/bacs_pptf_1_2.pdf)

More information on sustainability issues see: [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/sustainable/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/sustainable/)

**Forthcoming Regulations**

There are health and safety and environmental reasons to be concerned about Methylene Chloride. The EU Parliament has voted to introduce new legislation that will ban DIY consumers from using Methylene Chloride based paint removers and will ban professional use except for those countries that choose to allow training followed by licensed use including approved personal protective equipment (PPE). This legislation will be called **Dangerous substances and preparations: restrictions on the marketing and use of dichloromethane (amend. Directive 76/769/EEC) Ref COD/2008/0033.**

Here is the link for the document that was voted upon.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2009-0017+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN#BKMD-16>

Here is the web link reporting the details of the vote. Choose Strasbourg, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009, roll call votes. Page 8 names the 674 MEPs who voted in favour(+), page 9 names the 17 MEPs who voted against(-) and page 9 lists the 8 MEPs who abstained (0).

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/plenary/pv.do?language=EN>

Action Products **Safe Paint & Varnish Remover** and all other materials do not contain Methylene Chloride and will be unaffected by the new regulations!

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*Ithiel Mogridge, formulator of Action Products materials, won the award “British Female Inventor of the Year”, for the **Safe Paint & Varnish Remover.***