

News Release

DIY without danger: Ecological paint stripping

February 2004. Until recently, paint stripping has been perceived as presenting an almost unavoidable risk to both the environment and the health of the DIY enthusiast or professional decorator. Many commercial paint stripping and coatings removal products are either solvent or caustic based, and in most cases, the main ingredient in paint stripper products is dichloromethane, also known as methylene chloride. This material gives off potentially hazardous fumes and can cause irritations when it comes into contact with the skin, and is listed as a class III carcinogen in the European Union.

Now, thanks to product and material research, there is an alternative, which is not only safe to use but is also biologically degradable. And that's not all: Paint stripping products containing DBE[®] dibasic esters from INVISTA[™] (formerly DuPont Textiles & Interiors), can strip several coats in one application without damaging the underlying surface – regardless of whether on plaster, stone, steel or wood. Furthermore, because of the non-hazardous nature of paint strippers containing DBE[®], safe disposal of the residue is also much easier.

Under a newly launched partnership between INVISTA and Eco Solutions Ltd, consumers and professionals in the UK are now able to purchase a range of products containing dibasic esters, which will be clearly marked with the DBE[®] logo. Eco Solutions sells a range of safe and effective coatings removal products, from paint strippers and brush cleaners to nail polish removers, which can be used without any of the usual risks that are associated with hazardous solvents. They are available in major DIY stores such as B&Q, FOCUS, John Lewis Partnership and many independent hardware stores and carry a CE mark for safety for use as a children's toy.

For more information, please contact:

ECO Solutions Ltd.

Summerlease House, Church Road, Winscombe, North Somerset BS25 1BH, UK,
Tel. +44 1934 84 44 84, Fax +44 1934 84 41 19,
e-mail: info@strip-paint.com, web site: www.strip-paint.com

DBE[®] is a trademark from INVISTA Technologies S.a.r.l.

Koch Industries Inc. acquired INVISTA, formerly DuPont Textiles & Interiors on April 30, 2004.

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