

NEW PRODUCT

SEQUAL

Sequal is a brand new product and compliments our existing range of washroom cleaners. SEQUAL is a thick blue liquid with a pot-pouri perfume. Mildly acidic, SEQUAL will clean toilets, urinals, showers, baths and basins as well as ceramic-tiled washroom floors. It's safe to use on porcelain, glass, ceramic and stainless steel surfaces.

Two key features of Sequal are:

- NON-HAZARDOUS FORMULA – SAFE TO USE
- THICK SOLUTION – CLINGS TO STEEP SURFACES.

With occupational health & safety now a core facet of manufacturing and service industries, every aspect of operations is being assessed for potential risk and opportunity to improve work practices.

SEQUAL contains an acid compound to ensure effective cleaning in toilets and on urinals, showers and baths, so it needs to be treated with care and respect as with any cleaning chemical. However, careful and selective formulating has allowed us to keep SEQUAL within critical thresholds. So it's safer to use than traditional toilet cleaners, and according to Worksafe Australia criteria SEQUAL is classified as 'non-hazardous'. Many of you will know how much easier this makes your life in terms of compliance and paperwork.

Over the years a number of customers have suggested we make a thicker toilet cleaner. Well SEQUAL fulfils this need. The high viscosity formula allows it to cling to vertical and steep surfaces such as the sides of toilet bowls and urinals, to prolong the contact time for greater cleaning effectiveness. Remember though, as with any acid-based cleaner, contact must be avoided with marble, terrazzo, formica or laminex surfaces. Even a slice of lemon can cause irreversible damage to a marble bar-top.

Supplies of SEQUAL will be available very soon. You can download the Product Data Sheet and Material Safety Data Sheet from our website, at www.agar.com.au. Alternatively, contact our office or your Agar representative for a copy.

GREEN CLEANING IS GATHERING PACE – KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE

'Green' is probably the most over-used word in the English speaking world at the moment. Long used to describe an abundance of vegetation and a nice colour, not least used for the lowest light on traffic signals (ie. GO!), we now have 'green cleaning' and 'green products'.

In it's broadest terms, Green Cleaning is an important development and an unavoidable movement toward saving the health of our planet. It's all about minimizing the overall impact of cleaning operations on the environment, whilst still meeting the required standards of hygiene and presentation.

The problem is the use of such simplistic terms as, 'green this' and 'green that' can cause confusion or distract us from what should be the main focus: reduced environmental impact. The other problem is the lack of definition or criteria against which claims of being green can be assessed.

Choosing a product with environmental concerns in mind needs to be more thoughtful than selecting the label with the most foliage or biggest type-set saying 'GREEN'. Are the ingredients more biodegradable and lower in toxicity? Are the ingredients derived from renewable sources? Does the product still work well without you having to use far more than the traditional product it replaces? Is the product used at a higher concentration and therefore more irritating than the traditional one it is intended to replace?

After all 'green' is not only about choosing more friendly products it's also about reducing waste and the consumption of energy and resources both in your own operations and in the operations upstream that manufacture your equipment and products, and supply energy to your machinery and buildings.

At Agar Cleaning Systems, we are fully aware of our responsibilities and the part we can play in reducing the impact of cleaning operations on our natural surroundings. Next issue, we will announce the launch of a new product that offers many benefits in this regard.

PLEASE ROTATE YOUR STOCK!

Remember to use up existing stock of cleaning chemicals before starting on just-delivered new stock. This will ensure that nothing stays on the shelf beyond it's useful life, and avoids the confusion of product variation if we release an improved formula.

Our batch numbers provide a clue – use lower number first.

HANDS & HEALTH

Most of us have had that annoying moment when we were impeded in our activities by mum reminding us to wash our hands. Of course, it turns out that mum's know best.

In Europe it is estimated that around a third of food poisonings stem from poor personal hygiene. Also, bacteria on the skin, and hands in particular are the majority contributor to the spreading of infectious diseases.

Whether it be in the kitchen of your local pub or the intensive care wards in hospitals, hand washing is a critical part of operations for the health of all concerned.

Even those wearing gloves should wash their hands thoroughly prior to pulling them on and after they are removed.

Proper hand washing is more than one pass under a running cold tap and a wipe on a dirty, wet towel.

There is a correct technique to thorough hand washing, as follows

1. REMOVE all rings, watches and jewellery
2. RINSE hands with warm water.
3. Apply liquid hand SOAP from dispenser.
4. Soap up hands and SCRUB. Make sure palms, fingers, thumbs, nails and wrists are all washed thoroughly.
5. RINSE off soap with warm water.
6. DRY hands with disposable paper towel.

- * DO NOT use cloth towels to dry hands as they spread bacteria.
- * DO NOT wipe hands on uniform or clothing.
- * DO NOT wash your hands in food preparation sinks.
- * According to the Health Department, it is not mandatory to use an antibacterial hand soap. A thorough wash with normal soap is perfectly adequate for good hygiene.