

## What Makes a Cleaning Detergent

Man took a good thing, (a true soap), and made it better, (a synthetic detergent). These are some of the things that you will find in a cleaning product. They are what enable the chemicals to do what we need them to do.

- 1. Surfactants** - These are surface active agents, or “wetting agents”. A surfactant enables a cleaning solution to penetrate the fabric and suspend soils and oils.
- 2. Alkaline Builders** - They work to soften water and sequester minerals in addition to functioning as an activating ingredient when combined with vegetable and animal fats. Alkaline builders combine with fats to form water-soluble soaps, much the same as a true soap does.
- 3. Co-solvents** – Co-solvents are solvent-based products that are compatible in either water or oil based solutions that aid in cleaning. These are important additions to your traffic lane cleaners and emulsifiers as they help dissolve oil based soils that your water-based cleaners could not, and they will not affect your pH.
- 4. Lubricants** – Lubricants assist in removing particulate soils from the fiber surface, and protect the fiber during cleaning from aggressive agitation from tools like brushes, sponges, and cleaning wands.
- 5. Fragrance** – This does nothing for the actual cleaning but serves as an important role as it covers up the sometimes unpleasant odor from the raw materials that make up the chemical. In addition, it provides a pleasing fragrance while cleaning that often lingers for a time, after you are done.
- 6. Enzymes** – Chemicals used to breakdown organic matter into water-soluble compounds. Commonly used in urine de-contamination. Enzymes are also used in pre-sprays to break down protein based oils and greases like you

would find in a restaurant.

- 7. Stabilizers** – Or buffers, are used to stabilize a chemical at a certain pH. Many chemicals have stabilizers in them when you buy them, or they can be added to serve the same purpose.
- 8. Oxidizers** – This is our industries version of an oxygen bleach or color safe bleach. They are used to brighten white fabrics and enhance colors without using fluorescent dyes.
- 9. Optical Brighteners** – This is a fluorescent dye that when exposed to ultra violet rays will produce a bluish white light that makes color appear brighter. These have mostly been removed from carpet cleaning products as they have been linked to causing problems with browning and yellowing, and can produce uneven blotches in solid colored carpets.

Obviously you can see that even if different chemicals have the same pH, it DOES NOT mean they clean the same. The companies that have the best quality and the best blends of these ingredients are the companies that have the best cleaning products. We know just such a company. Check out our website [Interlinksupply.com](http://Interlinksupply.com)