

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

DIGESTER GEL

Low Odour Solvent/Remover for Silicones

DIGESTER GEL is READY TO USE and should not be diluted in anyway.

DIGESTER GEL chemically digests cured and uncured silicone elastomers and polymers, making them easily water or solvent rinsable.

ADVANTAGES

Readily digests silicone.
Does not contain halogenated solvents.
Does not contain heavy metal or cyanide.
Does not contain water.

May be used on aluminium* and its alloys, copper and its alloys, iron and steels, glass and ceramics, epoxy composites etc. without adverse effect.
Has little attack on rubber and other elastomers.
Has little effect on most painted surfaces.
*except coloured, anodised aluminium.

TEST A SMALL AREA BEFORE USE

DIGESTER GEL is ready-to-use : no diluting or heating required. Is safe (see Health and Safety Information) : low odour, low evaporation, high flash point, minimal hazard rating, biodegradable actives.

SUGGESTED METHODS OF USE

(A) IMMERSION (e.g. for recovery of expensive metallic components)

Put liquid **DIGESTER GEL** into a stainless steel, or polypropylene tank. H.D.P.E. or mild steel are satisfactory for short term use and glass may be used for laboratory or small scale work. If a lid is fitted it will help cut down on losses by evaporation, and will minimise the risk of contamination by other liquids.

Immerse the parts to be stripped in **LIQUID DIGESTER GEL** and leave it to soak for between 1 to 6 hours, or overnight if necessary. Agitation of the system will enhance the digestion effect (i.e. immersion time will be reduced).

Remove from the tank and drain. Rinse, with water, hydrocarbon or chlorinated solvent. N.B. Do not discharge **DIGESTER GEL** or rinse products, drains or waterways without approvals from relevant Authorities.

N.B. The presence of water reduces the effect of **DIGESTER GEL**.

HELPFUL HINTS

For thin layers of silicone, rub with a cloth wetted with **DIGESTER GEL**. Pre-clean with solvent to remove excess oil or grease. If great amounts of silicone are to be removed, use two tanks: one to remove most of the silicone, the other to complete the digesting operation.

CAUTION

- Contamination with water or oxygenated solvents such as alcohols or ketones must be avoided. Even at low levels of contamination, the ionic state of **DIGESTER GEL** changes irreversibly. This will prevent its action as a silicone digester, and may cause it to affect other materials.

- **DIGESTER GEL** will attack nylon (polyamide) : use PTFE (for tubing, seals, pipework, etc). If in doubt, always test polymers with a small quantity.

(B) EQUIPMENT CLEANING

Extrusion and moulding machinery, DPC injection pumps, sprayers, sealant dispensers, etc, should first be flushed with White Spirit. NH should then be circulated in the equipment for at least 10 minutes. (Do not discharge the washings into clean **DIGESTER GEL**

(C) REMOVAL OF EXCESS OR OVERSPRAYED MASONRY TREATMENT

(i.e. non aqueous silicone preparations for water repellency and antigraffiti purposes)

Using either **LIQUID** or **THIXOTROPIC DIGESTER GEL** coat affected areas (window panes, frames, sills etc.) and allow about a 10 minutes dwell.

Application can be by brush or cloth, using a vigorous scrubbing action. Wash off with White Spirit or with plenty of water. Repeat if necessary.

N.B. DIGESTER GEL is irreversibly denatured by water : ensure surfaces are dry. ALWAYS TEST A SMALL AREA BEFORE USE TO ENSURE COMPATABILITY.

(D) REMOVAL OF SILICONE OIL STAINS . (from building facades, due to leaching of silicone oil from silicone sealants into unprepared, absorbent materials)

- Remove the silicone sealant
- Apply **LIQUID DIGESTER GEL** to all possible surfaces. (Repeated applications may be necessary, depending on the porosity of the substrate and the depth and severity of the staining).
- Apply **THIXOTROPIC DIGESTER GEL** to face surfaces (for enhanced effect and to act as a poultice in maximising the longevity and effect of the **LIQUID DIGESTER GEL**).
- Protect from rain and leave overnight, or for a few hours.
- Thoroughly rinse off with copious amounts of water (use of a pressure washer is a good idea). Allow to dry, repeat if necessary.

N.B. ALWAYS TEST A SMALL AREA, INCLUDING RUN DOWN AND PAVEMENT SURFACES, BEFORE OVERALL USE.

(E) USE OF THIXOTROPIC DIGESTER GEL (for in situ removal of silicone sealants and silicone gaskets).

- Cut away as much as possible of the silicone material.
- Spread the paste of **THIXOTROPIC@NH** (via brush or spatula) to cover completely the area which requires treatment (use masking tape to protect any silicone which is to be retained).
- A coating of at least twice as much as the thickness of the underlying silicone should be applied.
- The dwell time for **THIXOTROPIC** may be varied between less than one hour to over 12 hours depending primarily on the characteristics of the underlying silicone and the substrate from which it is to be debonded.

N.B. 5 litres of THIXOTROPIC DIGESTER GEL at 5 mm thickness, should cover one square metre.

DIGESTER GEL is specific : it will breakdown silicone sealants and mastics only. However, it may have a softening effect on some non silicone sealants (e.g. GP mastics, butyl).

N.B. ALWAYS TEST A SMALL AREA FIRST TO ENSURE COMPATABILITY. DIGESTER GEL IS IRREVERSIBLY DENATURED BY WATER: ENSURE SURFACES ARE DRY.

STORAGE

At least 6 months in original unopened containers. Store between 0 deg C to 30 deg C. **DIGESTER GEL** may darken with age.