

COSHH Assessment: Toilet Cleaner and Descaler Products

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1. Purpose and scope

This assessment is carried out under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended), supported by the general duties in the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the risk assessment requirements of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. It covers the acidic toilet cleaner and descaler class of products used by operatives of Magic Touch Cleaning Solutions Ltd. The reference product for this assessment is a sulphamic acid based toilet cleaner and descaler supplied with a manufacturer's safety data sheet. Any acidic toilet cleaning or descaling product introduced later is checked against its own safety data sheet before first use, and this assessment is updated if the hazard profile differs.

This assessment must be read by every operative who uses products in this class before their first assignment involving them.

2. Product and task identification

Item	Detail
Product class	Acidic toilet cleaner and descaler (sulphamic acid based)
Reference product composition	Sulphamic acid 10 to 30 per cent; amphoteric surfactants below 5 per cent; non-ionic surfactants below 5 per cent; ethoxylated fatty amine 0.5 to 1 per cent; perfume below 5 per cent
Physical form	Clear liquid, strongly acidic (pH of the concentrated solution approximately 1)
Job task	Cleaning and descaling of toilet bowls and urinals
Application method	Squeeze the liquid from its original container around and under the rim of the bowl, allow the contact time stated on the product label, clean with a toilet brush, then flush. The product is never decanted into unmarked containers and never sprayed
Equipment	Protective gloves (household grade rubber or nitrile), toilet brush, eye protection where a splash risk exists
Safety data sheet attached	Yes. A current safety data sheet, supplied under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH) as it applies in Great Britain, is held for each product in this class and attached to this assessment

3. Hazard identification

The reference product contains sulphamic acid, classified under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, as it applies in Great Britain (the GB CLP Regulation), as a skin irritant, category 2 (H315, causes skin irritation), an eye irritant, category 2 (H319, causes serious eye irritation) and as hazardous to the aquatic environment, chronic category 3 (H412, harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects). The aquatic hazard is controlled through the spillage and disposal measures in sections 9 and 11.

Known health hazards in use:

1. Skin contact: irritating to skin. Prolonged or repeated contact may cause severe irritation.
2. Eye contact: splashes may cause serious eye irritation.
3. Ingestion: may cause burns to the mouth, throat, oesophagus and stomach, with stomach pain or vomiting.
4. Inhalation: not relevant in normal use. The product is a liquid applied at low level and is not sprayed.

Critical incompatibility: this product reacts with sodium hypochlorite (bleach) and other chlorine-based products, releasing toxic chlorine gas. See section 7.

No workplace exposure limits are assigned to the product ingredients in the current edition of EH40/2005 Workplace Exposure Limits (HSE).

4. Persons at risk and exposure

Item	Detail
Persons affected	The operative using the product. Other people in the immediate area are at risk only from an uncontained spill or from mixing incidents
Routes of exposure	Skin contact and eye contact are the main routes. Ingestion is possible only through poor hygiene practice
Duration of exposure	Short. Application and cleaning of each toilet takes a few minutes
Level of exposure	Low when the control measures in section 6 are followed

5. Risk rating

With the control measures in section 6 applied, the residual risk from this product class is assessed as LOW. The risk rises if gloves are not worn, if the product is left standing in the bowl beyond the task, or if it is used in the same bowl as, or mixed with, a chlorine-based product. The mixing scenario is the most serious failure mode and is controlled separately in section 7.

6. Control measures

For users:

1. Wear protective gloves (household grade rubber or nitrile) whenever handling or applying the product.
2. Wear eye protection where there is a risk of splashing, for example when cleaning at or above waist height or when scrubbing vigorously.
3. Apply the product directly from its original labelled container. Do not decant, dilute or transfer it.
4. Keep the container closed when not in use. Store it upright in the cleaning caddy.
5. Ventilate the area where practicable by leaving the door open or opening a window.
6. Wash hands after removing gloves and before eating, drinking or smoking.
7. Do not eat or drink while carrying out cleaning tasks.
8. Flush the bowl after cleaning so that no acidic residue remains for the next product or the next user.

For other persons in the location: restrict access to the immediate work area while the product is in the bowl. Signage or a verbal warning is used on occupied client sites.

7. Never mix with chlorine-based products

Acidic toilet cleaners must never be used together with, or immediately after, bleach or any other product containing sodium hypochlorite or another chlorine source. Mixing an acid with a hypochlorite releases chlorine gas, which is toxic and can cause serious harm in the confined space of a cubicle. Operatives are instructed on the following rule: one product per bowl, and flush thoroughly before any second product is used. This rule is covered in induction training and repeated in toolbox talks. Chlorine-based and acidic products are stored and carried so that a leak from one cannot reach the other.

8. First aid

1. Eye contact: rinse immediately with plenty of clean water, removing contact lenses if present and easy to do, and continue rinsing. Obtain medical attention if any discomfort continues.
2. Skin contact: remove contaminated clothing and wash the affected skin immediately with soap and water. Obtain medical attention if irritation persists after washing.

3. Ingestion: rinse the mouth thoroughly and drink plenty of water. Do not induce vomiting. Obtain medical attention.

4. Inhalation (mixing incident): move the person to fresh air at once and obtain medical attention.

9. Spillage

Wear gloves and eye protection. Contain the spill and prevent it entering watercourses or surface drains. Absorb small spills with paper towel, dry sand or earth, place the waste in a sealed container, then rinse the area with plenty of water. Report every significant spill to the supervisor.

10. Storage

Store in the tightly closed original container in a cool, dry, well ventilated place, away from chlorine-based products and out of the reach of children and site visitors. Keep the product in its original container at all times so that the label and hazard information remain with it.

11. Disposal

Normal use discharges the product to the foul drain with the flush, which is its intended disposal route. Empty containers and absorbed spill waste are disposed of in line with the waste duty of care under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and any client site rules. Concentrated surplus product is never poured to surface water drains.

12. Training and competence

Operatives receive COSHH training before their first assignment, covering this assessment, the product label, glove use, the no-mixing rule in section 7, first aid and spill response. Toolbox talks refresh these points at intervals and whenever a product in this class changes. Training is recorded.

13. Health surveillance

Health surveillance under regulation 11 of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 is not required for this product class at the assessed level of exposure. Operatives are instructed to report any skin irritation, dermatitis or other symptoms to their supervisor without delay, and any such report triggers a review of this assessment.

14. Accident reporting

Work-related accidents, ill health and dangerous occurrences connected with this product class are recorded internally, and reportable cases are notified under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013.

15. Personal protective equipment provision

All personal protective equipment identified in this assessment is provided by the company free of charge, in line with the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992, as amended by the Personal Protective Equipment at Work (Amendment) Regulations 2022. Damaged gloves are replaced before further use.

16. Reassessment

This assessment is reviewed every 12 months, and sooner if a product, task or supplier safety data sheet changes, if an incident occurs, or if ill health is reported.

17. References

1. Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
2. Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
3. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended)
4. Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992, as amended by the Personal Protective Equipment at Work (Amendment) Regulations 2022

5. Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013
6. Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (the GB CLP Regulation), as it applies in Great Britain
7. Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH), as it applies in Great Britain
8. Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 34
9. EH40/2005 Workplace Exposure Limits, HSE (guidance)

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Signed: 

Abdulfattah Mahmoud Alkidra, Director

For and on behalf of Magic Touch Cleaning Solutions Ltd

Date: 27-06-2027