

# Clinical Detergents, Household Detergents & Disinfectants

When discussing cleaning it is important to distinguish between cleaning agents such as detergents and disinfectants. It is surprising that many people in Health Care industries are not aware of the difference between a detergent and a disinfectant and as a consequence use these products inappropriately.

**Detergents:** Are cleaning solutions. Detergents contain surfactants which aid wetting of surfaces - that is they increase the contact between the water, the surface and the soil adhering to that surface. Surfactants also help to hold the soils in solution, preventing re-deposition. Detergents also contain other components to aid the cleaning process such as water softeners and corrosion inhibitors.

It is also important to distinguish between *household* dishwashing detergent and a *clinical* detergent. Household detergents are made with a large emphasis on mildness to skin. Household detergents are formulated to have a neutral pH (7.0) and contain moisturizers and skin care additives that do not contribute to the cleaning process and may lead to unwanted residues (Bio-Soil) on instruments and equipment.

**Disinfectants:** Agents used to inactivate micro-organisms (non-sporing). *Disinfectants should never be used as cleaning agents* unless specifically formulated for that purpose.

## PRODET®

### Medical and Dental Instrument & Equipment Detergent

The *Australian Standards AS/NZS 4187 and 4815* contain recommendations for appropriate characteristics of detergents to be used in Health Care facilities. **ProDet** is formulated according to these Standards and has the following features:

- ✓ **Mildly Alkaline** - **ProDet** is mildly alkaline with a pH of the final wash dilution in the range 9.0 to 9.8. Removal of soil is improved in mildly alkaline solutions.
- ✓ **Alkaline Builders** - **ProDet** contains alkaline builders or "water softening agents" that eliminate the effect of calcium and magnesium salts. Calcium and magnesium reduce the performance of surfactants and precipitate fatty acids contributing to soap scum.
- ✓ **Non-ionic, Biodegradable & Low Foaming** - The non-ionic surfactant system used in **ProDet** is biodegradable and naturally low foaming. An added bonus of the non-ionic surfactants is that the performance is substantially unaffected in hard water.
- ✓ **Non-Corrosive and Free Rinsing** - **ProDet** is mildly alkaline and non-corrosive, is a liquid formulation so therefore is non-abrasive and free rinsing.
- ✓ **Corrosive Inhibitors** - **ProDet** contains corrosion inhibitors to help protect sensitive equipment and instruments.
- ✓ **Safe to Use and Store** - The surfactant system and other ingredients used are classified as not poisonous according to the Poisons Schedule (Australia)/Toxic Substances (NZ). Also, **ProDet** is packaged to allow the cleaning agent to be handled and dispensed in a manner that is safe for the operator, while minimising contamination of the cleaning agent.
- ✓ **Clinical Grade Quality** - **ProDet** contains no perfumes, chlorine, fatty soaps, glycerine, lanoline or optical brighteners.



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