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Biobased Vs. Bioenzymatic Cleaning Products

By Mike Sawchuk — posted 07/21/2010



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We are getting more and more inquiries and questions from end users and jansan distributors about biobased and bioenzymatic cleaning products. The official definition of a biobased product, according to the United States Secretary of Agriculture in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 is as follows:

"A product determined by the Secretary to be a commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that is composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products or renewable domestic agricultural materials (including plant, animal, and marine or forestry) materials."

Bioenzymatic cleaning products are biobased products that contain enzymes that seek out and consume bacteria and other types of soils and contaminants, making them effective cleaners and odor eliminators.

Here is some more information about biobased and bioenzymatic cleaning products that jansan distributors can use to help their clients better understand these products:

- Biobased and bioenzymatic products have a reduced impact on the environment and are typically safer for human health.
- To ensure that these products are safer for users and the environment, it is important that they are green certified by EcoLogo or Green Seal; some ingredients in some bioenzymatic cleaners, such as surfactants and fragrances, may make the product less safe for users and the environment and risk its green certification.
- Bioenzymatic cleaning products use specialized bacteria and enzymes to clean surfaces and subsurfaces that some conventional and green cleaning products cannot treat as effectively.
- These products continue cleaning after application (for up to 80 hours), which makes them unique among cleaning products.

- o Bioenzymatic cleaning products are effective at eliminating odors, especially odors emanating from bacteria lodged in hard-to-reach and hard-to-clean areas.

Here are some tips specifically for carpet cleaning:

- o Some bioenzymatic cleaners can be used as carpet spotters to remove organic materials. They break down spots, allowing them to be easily removed during the extraction process.
- o Components in one common class of bioenzymatic spotters are classified as proteases. These enzymes are effective on protein-based spots such as blood and food, which can be difficult to remove.
- o Other types of commonly used bioenzymatic spotters include lipases and amylases. Lipases are used to remove oil and grease stains, while amylases target starchy materials.

Jansan distributors working with carpet cleaners should note that bioenzymatic cleaners are especially effective when cleaning carpets in foodservice locations such as restaurants, where a wide variety of spots are caused by various organic matter.

Biobased and bioenzymatic cleaners are certainly not new—but with the greater adoption of green cleaning in all types of facilities, they are garnering renewed interest. The astute distributor is wise to add these products to his/her green cleaning arsenal.

Related Video

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Mike Sawchuk has been involved with the jansan industry for more than 15 years. He is vice president and general manager of Enviro-Solutions Ltd., a leading manufacturer of "green" cleaning chemicals, based in Ontario, Canada. For more information, visit www.enviro-solution.com.

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