

BIODEGRADABILITY

What you need to know

Any organic substance will eventually biodegrade once it is discarded into nature (whether it takes 10 days or 850 years).

There are laboratory tests that evaluate if a substance will “readily” biodegrade once it returns to nature.

The OECD 301 series methods are the most widely recognized. They evaluate the biodegradability of a product in the presence of oxygen.

A “readily” biodegradable substance will degrade rapidly in the environment without the risk of accumulating in the environment (*provided oxygen is present in the environment in question*).

But this same “readily” biodegradable product may not be biodegradable in the absence of oxygen. Such products risk accumulating in lake and river sediments.

Biodegradability alone is not a guarantee of environmental and human health safety. For example, a biodegradable product containing phosphates (and other sources of phosphorous) will be an environmental stress. Similarly, a biodegradable product containing alcohol and solvents will present a toxic risk for human health.

Biodegradability: Biodegradability attempts to express the fate of a product once it returns to the environment.

If it is biodegradable, it will be assimilated by the environment. If it is non-biodegradable, it will accumulate and pollute the environment.

INNU-SCIENCE

Innu-Science biotechnology products are readily biodegradable according to OECD 301 standards.

Innu-Science certified products contain only substances biodegradable, both with and without oxygen – in compliance with the European Directive on awarding Ecolabel certification (*Commission Decision of March 23, 2005 – 2005/344/EC*)



Disinfectants are poisons. **A disinfectant cleaner is necessarily *not* readily biodegradable.**