

Choosing surfactants

What you need to know

Cleaning products all contain at least surfactants.

These surfactants help “wet” a surface – even if it is soiled and greasy. They also emulsify the greasy deposits.

Surfactants are produced from petroleum or plant materials.

Whether a surfactant comes from a petroleum or plant source has no bearing on its biodegradability or its aquatic toxicity.

Petroleum-based surfactants have the disadvantage of contributing to the depletion of a non-renewable resource.

Plant-based surfactants have the advantage of coming from renewable resources.

It is currently in fashion with cleaning product manufacturers to use plant-based surfactants to express their environmental commitment and to please their customers.

However..., you should know that plant-based surfactants are produced through additional agricultural activities that are more polluting and destructive to natural habitats. Vast forests and marshes in Southeast Asia are destroyed and ravaged to make room for huge plantations of palm trees to produce palm oil that is used, among other things, to meet the needs of the large multinationals. The destruction of these natural habitats contributes significantly to the increase in greenhouse gases. The centralization of single-crop farming has a devastating effect on the increase in agricultural food products and contributes to impoverishing and starving local populations.

Nothing is perfect, so we must carefully dose our actions and reflect on the environmental impact before completely abandoning petroleum-based surfactants and throwing ourselves into intense use of plant-based surfactants.

INNU-SCIENCE

Out of concern for balance and protecting natural ecosystems, Innu-Science uses combinations of petroleum-based and plant-based surfactants.

Innu-Science uses only surfactants that are readily biodegradable **with or without oxygen**.

In choosing surfactants, Innu-Science complies with the European requirements of use (*Commission Decision of March 31, 2004 – 2004/648/EEC*)

Innu-Science always uses blends of surfactants that achieve the best ratio of performance to eco-friendliness.