Glycolic Acid

Advantages of Glycolic Acid from Chemours vs. Competitive Glycolic Acid

Technical Information

Reliable Supply
Chemours has a proven track record on meeting and exceeding customer needs for product supply for over 80 years.

- Chemours has at least four times the capacity of any other supplier in the market.
- Competitive glycolic acid is made by multiple, and generally very small, companies with limited resources and experience.
- Competitive supply chains have been notably unreliable.
- Most competitive technical grade glycolic acid, particularly that manufactured in China, is made from monochloroacetic acid (MCA). The primary market for MCA is agricultural chemicals. In times of tight supply, MCA producers will likely supply their customers that give them the most volume—agricultural chemical producers—thus making the supply chain even more volatile.

Reliable Quality
Glycolic acid from Chemours is the most consistent product available on the market today.

- Chemours operates a continuous process 24/7, producing consistent product day after day.
- MCA route manufacturers use a batch process and have very limited personnel and analytical capability, making it difficult to ensure product quality and consistency. Although the initial load or two may be acceptable, there is so much variability as to almost guarantee that product consistency will not be maintained over time.
- Competitive producers also have hundreds of diverse MCA suppliers, whose product quality varies greatly—also directly impacting the glycolic acid quality.

- MCA-produced glycolic acid has elevated levels of chlorides that prove to be much more corrosive (see graphs on back for corrosion comparison of sampled competitive and glycolic acid from Chemours).
- Glycolic acid made from MCA is likely going to have some level of unreacted chloro-organic compounds, including dichloroacetic acid, in the product—a known toxic compound.

Levels of Dichloroacetic Acid in Glycolic Acid from Chemours versus In-Kind Competitive Glycolic Acid

![Levels of Dichloroacetic Acid graph]

The dichloroacetic acid test was on 70% glycolic acid solutions.

Reliable Service
Chemours has a dedicated, professional staff of technical service representatives, as well as formulating and analytical chemists, to help end users develop new products, answer technical questions, and address any product composition questions.

- As we have found that many competitive producers do not have the technical capability or staff that Chemours makes available to its customers, who are you going to call if a problem arises from a batch of competitive material?

BOTTOM LINE: Chemours has the highest standards and capability for product stewardship, supply, and quality. The competitive producers can only promise these things; we have delivered on them.
Metal Corrosion Rates of Glycolic Acid from Chemours versus Competitive Glycolic Acid* in the U.S. Market

1100 Aluminum

Glycolic acid from Chemours is over 300 times less corrosive to aluminum.

Test conducted on 10% solutions (100% basis) at 90 °C (194 °F) for 2.5 hours.

1018 Carbon Steel

Glycolic acid from Chemours is 16.8% less corrosive to carbon steel.

Test conducted on 10% solutions (100% basis) at 38 °C (100 °F) for 48 hours.

Copper and 304 Stainless Steel

Glycolic acid from Chemours is over 14 times less corrosive to copper and almost 30 times less corrosive to stainless steel.

Tests conducted on 10% solutions (100% basis) at 90 °C (194 °F) for 5.8 hours on copper and 7 hours on stainless steel.

*Sample tested in 2004.