

# Glycolic Acid

## Laundry Sour

### Product Information

Industrial and institutional laundries use a multi-step laundry process that includes the use of alkaline detergents. This detergent must be neutralized by a "sour". In the past, silicafluorides or hydrofluosilicic acid have been used to neutralize the laundry. Today's modern laundry equipment, including automatic dispensers, requires a flexible yet dependable liquid sour. Glycolic acid provides the dependability and flexibility demanded in a modern laundry system.

#### Advantages

- Because it is a liquid, glycolic acid is easier to measure and add when using automatic dispensing equipment. The poor solubility of some of the silicafluorides limits solution concentrations and creates possibilities for the equipment to become blocked.
- The lower toxicity of glycolic acid over the fluorosilicates causes fewer handling problems and concerns.
- Glycolic acid offers better storage stability. As a liquid, glycolic acid won't cake in storage.
- Glycolic acid does not damage the fabric, especially when the fabric is ironed wet. Due to their rather poor solubility, the undissolved fluorosilicates can occasionally bind to the cellulosic fiber and cause grating action that tears the fabric apart.
- Silicafluorides impart a buffering action with the pH at around 6 or 5.5. Because of this action, excess amounts



of the acid salts are often added. Glycolic acid, however, does not buffer, and addition of excess can be prevented by simple pH control.

- Glycolic acid reacts to reach a final pH of 5-6 in alkaline wash conditions much more quickly, especially at lower wash temperatures, than silicafluorides.
- Glycolic acid is very soluble in water and presents no problem with salting out. The fluorosilicates are poorly soluble. Undissolved solids will result in a salt carryover which, when ironed, causes a whitish deposit on the laundry.
- Glycolic acid complexes calcium and iron to prevent scale deposition and rust decoloration of fabric.

For more information, visit [glycolicacid.chemours.com](http://glycolicacid.chemours.com) or call (800) 441-9593.

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