



**SONITRON®**

ABN 66 021 652 107

## SK45

### **SPECIAL HYPO-ALLERGENIC CARPET CLEANING COMPOUND**

SK45 is used where there is a problem with allergy.

#### **THE PROBLEM OF ALLERGY.**

*This bulletin will attempt to deal briefly and in the simplest possible language with a complex medical problem. Allergic reactions may occur in some people when they contact substances which are harmless (ie not toxic or poisonous) to the majority of the population. The person experiencing the reaction produces histamine within their body and this may give rise to a number of unpleasant symptoms such as swelling, hives, skin rashes, breathing difficulties etc. Treatment with anti-histamine drugs may relieve the symptoms but does not solve the basic problem. The severity of the attack varies widely. For example, some children have suffered severe swelling after eating fruits such as strawberries to the extent that the airway is restricted and the reaction is potentially fatal if prompt treatment is not obtained. Many of us suffer from mild hay fever for a couple of weeks every spring when certain pollens are in the atmosphere. These are examples of mild to severe reactions to common natural substances. In the cleaning industry we are concerned with allergic reactions to both naturally occurring and synthetic chemical substances which are used to produce our formulations.*

#### **RELEVANT MARKET SEGMENT**

SK45 has been developed specifically for professional carpet cleaners. In households where one or more family members have an allergy problem giving rise to severe asthma, it is frequently recommended that all carpets and drapes be removed. That dust mops and oiled dust cloths be used on a daily basis plus many similar precautions amounting to a complete change in lifestyle. Many of these people are very sick and in their sensitised state may react to many different substances at the same time. However there are many thousands of carpeted households where one family member may have mild asthma and no radical changes in lifestyle or furnishings have been considered. This is the market area where use of SK45 in place of your normal procedures can prevent problems arising during and after the cleaning process and result in much better customer relations. Unfortunately you should clearly understand that anybody can become allergic to anything and there are no absolute guarantees. In the present state of the art all we can do is to significantly reduce the probability of adverse allergic reaction.

We should also consider the commercial market. Dr. Michael A Berry of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has extensively investigated the sick building syndrome in air-conditioned commercial premises.

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He has found that carpets act like a “sink” in that they trap and hold materials, which may remain airborne in areas with hard surface floors. If the “sink” is emptied by regular and effective professional cleaning the carpets can actually contribute to an improvement in air quality. You can render both domestic and commercial customers a most valuable service by removal of toxins such as lead (from motor vehicle exhaust) and allergens from a variety of sources.

*The most common allergens in the home arise from house dust mites, pollens, feathers, mould and pets. House dust mites are a special problem in that some Australian research has shown that four weeks after wet cleaning the average level of dust mite allergens had returned to 83% of the original levels. Owing to the life cycle and breeding characteristics of the dust mite, other control measures are required in addition to cleaning.*

### **CHARACTERISTICS**

From the proceeding paragraphs you will have seen that some substances are much more likely to cause allergy and many of the culprits have been identified. Statistics have been compiled which demonstrate that in a standard detergent formulation, the colouring agent and the perfume are the most common substances likely to cause allergic reaction. These have been eliminated in SK45 and every ingredient has been studied in order to select those least likely to cause allergic reaction.

SK45 is an effective cleaner and complies fully with the requirements of the Australian Standard AS3733-95. It also complies with the specification for detergents which do not remove the protective coatings on Stainmaster and Stain Release protected carpets.

### **DIRECTIONS FOR USE**

**These directions include general allergy control in the whole cleaning process.**

1. It is important to get the best possible clean without overwetting which could cause development of mould. (If bactericidal or mould control chemicals have to be used, this introduces more substances into the environment of the allergic person and this must be avoided.) Therefore as much soil as possible should be removed dry before the wet clean commences. This is a requirement of the Australian and New Zealand Carpet Cleaning Standard AS3733. However, ordinary vacuum cleaners without filtration may suspend fine particles in the air for up to 48 hours after vacuuming, and are a specific source of problems for dust and dust mite allergic people. It is important that this potential problem is effectively solved.

If you have truck mounted equipment which is designed to allow for dry vacuuming this can effectively remove the soil from inside the building. Some truck mounts have very effective facilities for dry vacuuming, and this is the best method. Alternatively, a quality upright brush type vacuum cleaner with an effective and properly maintained HEPA filter system may be used.

2. Open all windows to ensure good ventilation during the cleaning process. In air conditioned areas set the conditioner to maximum exhaust after the cleaning is completed, if it is not possible to open the windows.
3. Preferably the allergic person should not be in the building during the cleaning process.
4. Spotting should be done with SK45 only, normally diluted with 2 to 3 parts of water. Use neat (undiluted) if necessary.
5. All detergent should be applied as a pre-spray, with hot water only in the machine for rinsing. Set the pre-sprayer to deliver a coarse wetting spray without excessive or unnecessary misting. Depending on degree of soiling, dilute between 1 in 8 of water and 1 in 20 of water. Prespray wall to wall and then go back over any heavily soiled traffic areas. Allow to react for not less than 5 and not more than 20 minutes before extraction. If the cleaning process is interrupted re-wet any pre-sprayed areas which have dried out before extraction.
6. Extract carefully and completely using the hottest water permissible for the carpet and the equipment. Do not over-wet. Take your time and use plenty of vacuum only strokes to extract as much as possible from the carpet. You should normally quote a higher price and allow more time in the booking schedule for a special anti-allergy job.
7. If the clean reveals some old stains which were camouflaged by the general soiling treat these with Browning Remover in accordance with label and then extract.
8. **Do not use any other spotter. Do not use any deodorant sprays.** Explain to the carpet owner before you start that they can have a standard job or a special anti-allergy job and in the latter case you may be restricted in the range of spotters you can use.

### **SAFETY NOTES**

You will have noted that SK45 does not require a poison or warning label, but as with all detergents should be stored out of reach of children. It will exert a strong degreasing and defatting effect on the skin so avoid contact. Refer to MSDS for detailed information.

### **STORAGE CONDITIONS**

Avoid extremes of temperature and replace the cap immediately after measuring out the required amount. SK45 is very stable and should be effective up to 5 years from the original date of manufacture.

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