

PRODUCT CHEMISTRY POLICY

SESI Food and Household Refill LLP is committed to avoid toxic and harmful chemicals and constituents in the products it makes or commissions others to make, or distributes on behalf of other manufacturers.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following SESI policies available on www.sesi.org.uk/about-us/our-policies :

Environmental Policy

Palm Oil Policy

Supply Chain Policy

Animal Testing Policy

Social Responsibility Policy

Non Violence Policy

Within this policy we will not use the following compounds in manufacture of SESI toiletries and cleaning products nor stock other manufactured goods containing these compounds:

- 1 Phosphates [major cause of water eutrophication]
- 2 Chlorine Bleach [toxic to aquatic life and breaks down to highly toxic products in some environments]
- 3 Phthalates [endocrine and fertility disruptor]
- 4 Methylisothiazolinone (MI, MIT) [provokes common allergic reaction]
- 5 Parabens [weak estrogenic effects and allergenic]
- 6 Formaldehyde [toxic and carcinogenic]
- 7 Microplastics and Nanoparticles [long lasting and damaging to the aquatic food chain]
- 8 Liquid plastics like Acrylate Copolymers and PVA [long lasting]
- 9 Optical Brighteners [long lasting bio-accumulators]
- 10 SLS [skin irritant]
- 11 Triclosan [bioaccumulator with hormonal effects]
- 12 BPA [endocrine disruptor]
- 13 Oxybenzone and Octinoxate (hormone effects through skin penetration and coral harmful)

Within this policy we do use these classes of products in appropriate situations:

14 SLES

Sodium Laureth Sulphate is used as the main surfactant in many of our cleaners. It is derived from RSPO palm oil and we believe is the best choice of surfactant available on the market today as the alternatives are more environmentally damaging. Coconut derived surfactants come from fragile ecosystems, produce far less raw material per hectare and are less regulated than the palm oil industry.

There have been concerns about byproduct dioxanes being created in some of the processes used to make SLES and in the last 3 years some alternative plant based surfactants made from agricultural surplus have been piloted in the industry. This offers a superior medium term solution if it successfully scales.

15 Dyes

Dyes are only used in our commercial range of anti-bacterials where there is a

hospitality industry norm that products are instantly distinguished using colour.

16 Petroleum derivatives

We use one petroleum derivative which is phenoxyethanol. It is an extremely effective and harmless preservative. The main plant based alternative is sodium benzoate but the cost impact of this inferior preservative rules it out for detergents trying to be price accessible to the mass market.

A better approach we have successfully used is to use acidity or alkalinity to make a microbe intolerant product. We introduced a phenoxyethanol free range of concentrated laundry detergents in 2023, but this approach isn't appropriate for washing up liquids and household cleaners.

17 Fragrances

As fragrances are a complex mix of esters and compounds which in bulk are hazardous materials and can provoke dermatological irritation even at the low concentrations in products, we offer fragrance free versions of all the main laundry and wash up products.

Where we do fragranced household detergents and soaps we use a blend of manufactured fragrant chemicals and natural plant extracts from sustainable sources.

Within this policy we do not source products from countries in the 'boycott' list maintained in the Non Violence policy. Any components of products whose source is unknown or is only available from one of the listed countries needs to be reported to SESI immediately.