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(71) Applicant: S. C. JOHNSON & SON, INC. [US/US];
1525 Howe Street, Racine, WI 53403 (US).

(72) Inventors: AVERY, Richard, W.; Mulberry House,
Horseshoe Road, Radnage, High Wycombe, Radnage,
Buckinghamshire HP14 4EB (GB). ROBB, Ian; 726
Smith Road, Duncan, OK 73533 (US).

(74) Agent: MEIER, Linda, Blair; S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc.,
1525 Howe Street, Racine, WI 53403 (US).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: HARD SURFACE CLEANERS CONTAINING CHITOSAN

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein are acidic aqueous hard surface cleaners and methods for using them. The cleaners include a surfactant and a poly D-glucosamine such as chitosan. They provide residual benefits on the hard surface such as soil resistance and resistance to bacteria, molds and biofilms.



HARD SURFACE CLEANERS CONTAINING CHITOSAN

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED

5 RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 [0003] The present invention relates to cleaning compositions for hard surfaces. They appear to be especially well suited for use in cleaning toilets, baths, shower surrounds and other plumbing fixtures, bathroom and kitchen hard surfaces, drains and floor surfaces.

15 [0004] The art has developed a variety of hard surface cleaning compositions, including some which are acidic. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,008,030 discloses cleaning compositions that contain nonionic surfactants, a monocarboxylic acid, water, and other additives. Also, U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,393 teaches a hard surface cleaner
20 that is a mixture of a zwitterionic surfactant, nonionic surfactant, citric acid, and various other components, and U.S. Pat. No. 5,851,980 teaches aqueous acidic liquid hard surface cleaners having nonionic surfactants, glycolic and lactic acids, N-alkyldimethyl benzyl
25 ammonium chloride, and fragrance. Ether solvents are also taught in the last of these patents.

[0005] U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,397 also teaches hard surface
30 cleaners with butyl cellosolve, citric acid, and colorants. Other publications describe the use of sulfamic acid, amine oxides and cellulosic thickeners and hard surface cleaners.

[0006] While these varied prior art hard surface
35 cleaners have provided a variety of ways to clean hard surfaces, they have been limited in their ability to provide residual benefits to the surfaces being cleaned. In this regard, it is desirable to render hard surfaces that are being cleaned more resistant to becoming soiled,

and to provide the surface with antimicrobial characteristics.

[0007] Chitosan is a poly D-glucosamine that has been isolated from the shells of crabs, lobsters or shrimps, or derived from chitin. Chitosan has previously been added to certain skin and hair care products, including some that contain surfactants and water. In these applications chitosan is used for its protective effects. Examples of such products include hair setting preparations, hair gels, hair mousses, styling creams, anti-dandruff preparations, hair tonics, hair rinses, skin moisturizers, deodorants and antiperspirants. See also U.S. Pat. No. 4,931,271 which describes certain problems in using chitosan in shampoos with anionic surfactants.

[0008] Chitosan has also been used in a number of other contexts. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,541,223 teaches that chitosan can be included in a sponge. However, Applicants believe that the art had not previously included chitosan in a hard surface cleaner.

[0009] Thus, there is a continuing need to develop hard surface cleaners which not only are effective in cleaning at the time of use, but also provide positive residual benefits to the surface that has been cleaned.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] In one aspect the invention provides a hard surface cleaner having a pH below 7.0, one or more surfactants (preferably in the .1-10% weight range), a poly D-glucosamine (preferably at less than 2% by weight), and water. The preferred poly D-glucosamine is chitosan.

[0011] Normally more than 50% of the cleaner should be water (preferably over 90% of the cleaner), and there is preferably also an acid.

[0012] A wide variety of surfactants are suitable such as those that are nonionic, anionic, cationic and amphoteric, and mixtures thereof. However, for many

applications a nonionic surfactant such as Glucopon 425 N is particularly preferred. Examples of such surfactants are described in McCutcheon's: Emulsifiers & Detergents, North American Edition (1995).

5 [0013] Suitable other nonionic surfactants include alkyl amine oxides (e.g. C₈₋₂₀ alkyl dimethyl amine oxides), alkylphenol ethoxylates, linear and branched alcohol ethoxylates, carboxylic acid esters, alkanolamides, alkylpolyglycosides, ethylene oxide/propylene oxide
10 copolymers, linear and secondary alcohol ethoxylates, octyl- and nonyl-phenol ethoxylates, alkanol amides and alkylpolyglycosides.

[0014] Useful zwitterionic/amphoteric surfactants include alkyl aminopropionic acids, alkyl iminopropionic acids,
15 imidiazoline carboxylates, alkylbetaines, sulfobetaines, and sultaines.

[0015] Useful cationic surfactants include, for example, primary amine salts, diamine salts, quaternary ammonium salts, and ethoxylated amines.

20 [0016] Useful anionic surfactants (which are preferably used only in conjunction with a nonionic surfactant, if at all) include carboxylic acid salts, alkyl benzene sulfonates, secondary n-alkane sulfonates, alpha-olefin sulfonates, dialkyl diphenylene oxide sulfonates,
25 sulfosuccinate esters, isoethionates, linear alcohol sulfates (alkyl sulfates), and linear alcohol ethoxy sulfates.

[0017] The poly D-glucosamine is preferably a chitosan (such as that available from Henkel/Cognis under the
30 trade name Hydagen NH). Coarse grades are alternatively available by being ground from crab shells. More pure forms can be obtained by deacetylation of chitin. Other poly D- glucosamines are nitrogen or other salts of chitosan.

35 [0018] The acid is preferably less than 10% of the cleaner, even more preferably less than 5% of the cleaner. Preferred acids are organic acids such as lactic

acid, sulfamic acid, citric acid, valeric acid, hexanoic acid, and glycolic acid. Other examples are formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, and gluconic acid, and peroxy variants of these acids such as peroxyacetic acid. In order to optimize the effectiveness of chitosan the pH should be below 7.0, preferably below 5.0, and even more preferably between 2 and 5. This can be achieved by appropriate use of acids to remove limescale (e.g. in a toilet bowl cleaner), with a modifying base such as sodium hydroxide to fine-tune the pH if needed.

[0019] There may also be a glycol ether solvent (most preferably ethylene glycol hexyl ether or ethylene glycol butyl ether). This is particularly desirable for kitchen cleaners where there is substantial grease that needs to be cleaned. Other possible solvents are terpenes, aliphatic hydrocarbons and alpha-olefins, and organic compounds containing at least one oxygen atom, such as alcohols and ethers.

[0020] Among these oxygen-containing solvents are aliphatic alcohols of up to 8 carbon atoms, particularly tertiary alcohols of up to 8 carbon atoms; aromatic-substituted alcohols; alkylene glycols of up to 6 carbon atoms; polyalkylene glycols having up to 6 carbon atoms per alkylene group; mono- or dialkyl ethers of alkylene glycols or polyalkylene glycols having up to 6 carbon atoms per glycol group and up to 6 carbons atoms in each alkyl group; mono- or diesters of alkylene glycols or polyalkylene glycols having up to 6 carbon atoms per glycol group and up to 6 carbon atoms in each ester group.

[0021] Specific examples of solvents include t-butanol, t-pentyl alcohol, 2,3-dimethyl-2-butanol, benzyl alcohol or 2-phenyl ethanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, propylene glycol mono-n-butyl ether, dipropylene glycol mono-n-butyl ether, propylene glycol mono-n-propyl ether, dipropylene glycol mono-n-propyl ether, diethylene glycol

mono-n-butyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether, triethylene glycol, propylene glycol monoacetate, and dipropylene glycol monoacetate.

5 [0022] The solvent preferably constitutes no more than 6 weight percent of the composition, more preferably no more than 2 weight percent.

[0023] For some applications such as toilet cleaners and bathroom cleaners it may be desirable that the cleaner
10 also contain a cellulosic thickener. A preferred thickener is hydroxyethyl cellulose.

[0024] If desired a disinfectant can be used (preferably benzalkonium chloride). Other possible disinfectants include polyhexamethylene biguanide, phenolic
15 disinfectants, amphoteric disinfectants, anionic disinfectants, and metallic disinfectants (e.g. silver).

[0025] In another form, the invention provides a method of cleaning a hard surface. One applies a cleaner of the above kind against the hard surface (e.g. by rubbing),
20 then rinses the surface with water.

[0026] By "hard surface" we mean a solid, substantially non-flexible, surface such as a counter top, bathroom tile, plumbing fixture wall, bathroom or kitchen wall, or linoleum floor. It does not include fabric, carpet,
25 hair, skin, or other materials which are highly flexible.

[0027] It has been surprisingly learned that the addition of poly D-glucosamines (particularly chitosan) to a hard surface cleaner (particularly an acidic hard surface cleaner containing a nonionic surfactant) causes surfaces
30 that have been cleaned using the cleaner to be left with residual benefits. In particular, the surfaces resist staining, are easier to clean when stained, and provide resistance to bacteria, molds and biofilms. These benefits have been achieved without disrupting the
35 cleaning function of the cleaner.

[0028] Chitosan is a naturally occurring material which can be obtained at relatively low cost. It is non-toxic, biodegradable and is a renewable resource.

[0029] The foregoing and other advantages of the invention will appear from the following description. In that description reference is made to the accompanying drawing which forms a part hereof. These embodiments do not represent the full scope of the invention. Thus, the claims should be looked to in order to judge the full scope of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

[0030] Fig. 1 is a general chemical formula for chitosan (n being variable based on the source of chitosan).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0031] Preferred examples of the present invention are described below. They are two toilet bowl cleaners, a bath and shower cleaner, and a kitchen cleaner.

Example 1 - Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Weight percent	Description
to 100	water
2.00	ethoxylated alcohol
2.50	glycolic acid
0.25	chitosan
0.50	benzalkonium chloride

Example 2 - Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Weight percent	Description
to 100	water
2.00	ethoxylated alcohol
.50	sulfamic acid
2.50	glycolic acid
0.25	chitosan
0.50	benzalkonium chloride

Example 3 - Bath and Shower

Weight percent	Description
to 100	water
1.00	polyglucoside surfactant
.50	citric acid
.50	lactic acid
0.25	chitosan
0.20	benzalkonium chloride

5

Example 4 - Kitchen Cleaner

Weight percent	Description
to 100	water
.30	Amine oxide surfactant
.75	Polyglucoside surfactant
1.00	citric acid
.43	ethylene glycol hexyl ether
.57	ethylene glycol butyl ether
0.25	chitosan
0.01	benzalkonium chloride

Method Of Forming Preferred Embodiments

10 [0032] The above cleaners can be formulated by adding the components to water and then mixing at room temperature. Where an anionic surfactant is to be added, it is preferable to first add the nonionic surfactant and chitosan (as anionic surfactants alone may cause
15 instability for the chitosan).

Testing

[0033] We tested two formulations: (P-65-3) which contained water, acid, chitosan, and Glucopon 425 N within the claim scope; and (P-65-1) which contained water and
20 acid but not the chitosan or Glucopon 425 N. The latter was the control. We basically treated a surface

individually with each test formula. We then exposed the surface to *S. aureus* with 5% fetal bovine and observed bacteria levels after a defined test period.

[0034] The control water and acid formulation averaged 94.22687% reduction in bacteria, whereas the P-65-3 formula led to a average reduction of 99.95456%. Thus, the addition of the chitosan in the nonionic formulation provided marked antimicrobial effects that were residual in nature.

[0035] Thus, the present invention provides effective cleaners that not only clean hard surfaces, but also leave desirable residual properties on those surfaces after the cleaning. While the preferred embodiments incorporate chitosan, other poly D-glucosamines (e.g. substituted chitosans) can be used, or mixtures of chitosan with chitosan variants can be used.

[0036] While specific embodiments have been described, various modifications falling within the breadth and scope of the invention. The following claims should be looked to in order to understand the full scope of the invention.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0037] The present invention provides improved hard surface cleaners.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A hard surface cleaner having a pH below 7.0,
5 comprising:
surfactant;
a poly D-glucosamine; and
water.

10 2. The hard surface cleaner of claim 1, wherein the
poly D-glucosamine is selected from the group consisting of
chitosan and salts of chitosan.

15 3. The hard surface cleaner of claim 2, further
comprising an acid.

20 4. The hard surface cleaner of claim 3, wherein the
acid is an organic acid selected from the group consisting of
lactic acid, sulfamic acid, citric acid, valeric acid,
hexanoic acid, and glycolic acid.

5. The hard surface cleaner of claim 2, further
comprising a glycol ether solvent.

25 6. The hard surface cleaner of claim 2, wherein the
surfactant is a nonionic surfactant in the .1-10% weight
range.

30 7. The hard surface cleaner of claim 2, further
comprising a cellulosic thickener.

8. The hard surface cleaner of claim 1, further
comprising a disinfectant.

35 9. The hard surface cleaner of claim 2, wherein the
water is at least 50% by weight of the cleaner.

-10-

10. A method of cleaning a hard surface,
comprising: applying a cleaner against the hard surface; and
then rinsing the surface with water; wherein the cleaner has
a pH below 7.0 and comprises a surfactant, water and a poly
5 D-glucosamine.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the poly D-
glucosamine is selected from the group consisting of
chitosan and salts of chitosan.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the cleaner
further comprising an acid.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the acid is an
organic acid selected from the group consisting of lactic
acid, sulfamic acid, citric acid, valeric acid, hexanoic
acid, and glycolic acid.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the cleaner
further comprises a glycol ether solvent.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the surfactant
is a nonionic surfactant.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the cleaner
further comprises a cellulosic thickener.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the cleaner
further comprises a disinfectant.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the cleaner
comprises at least 50% by weight of the cleaner.

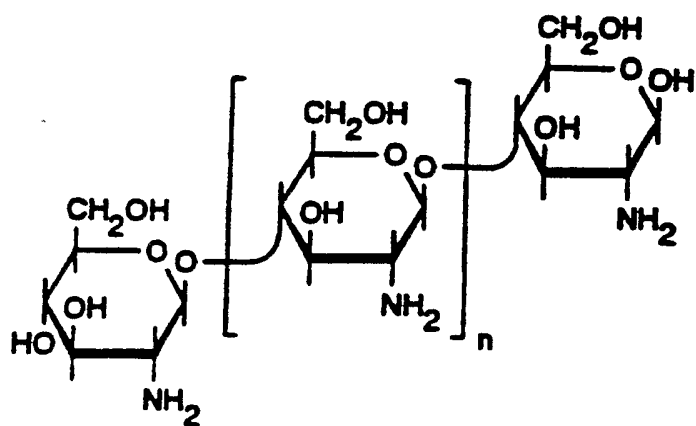


FIG. 1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/34095

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C11D3/37 C11D11/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C11D A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Richards, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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