



The Real Truth About Formaldehyde

Formaldehyde-based products are scientifically recognized as the most effective holding tank deodorants available. And, as you might expect, they're also the most popular.

But some people have the idea that formaldehyde is bad for the environment. I'm often asked – and, perhaps, you are too – “What's the real truth?”

100% Biodegradable

The truth is, formaldehyde is proven to be 100% biodegradable. That means it breaks down to simpler molecules (like carbon dioxide and water) through the natural action of oxygen, sunlight, bacteria and heat.

Studies show that formaldehyde breaks down much more easily than the active ingredients of most other deodorant products, so it can be easily treated in waste treatment systems.

Thetford's Aqua-Kem, the nation's top-selling holding tank deodorant, uti-

lizes formaldehyde as an active ingredient. It has been extensively studied by Thetford chemists and by independent labs – and meets the strictest standards set for biodegradability.

So, you can be assured that using Aqua-Kem isn't harming the environment.

The Campground Problem

Formaldehyde, however, often gets blamed for a campground's treatment system failure when the real problem is too much concentrated waste being dumped.

Waste treatment plants are rated for a certain amount of household waste acceptance per day. That type of waste, including formaldehyde-based deodorants, will not harm a waste treatment plant.

But RV waste is different. Because RV'ers use low-water-use toilets to conserve water, RV waste contains about



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The Chemical Corner will appear from time to time to help clear up technical questions for you and your customers.

Mary heads up Thetford Corporation's staff of full-time chemists.

15 times more waste per gallon than typical household waste.

What overloads the waste treatment facility is, in fact, the concentration of RV waste. Waste treatment plants work best with a consistent waste load. Too much solid matter arriving too quickly – on a busy Sunday, for example – causes different problems for different systems, but the result is the same: system failure.

The Formaldehyde Advantage

The formaldehyde in Aqua-Kem controls odor by chemically reacting with the waste's odor-causing molecules.

That means the odor-causing molecules cannot cause new odors once they've been reacted with. By contrast, the active ingredients in other types of deodorants merely kill the bacteria without affecting the odor-causing molecules.

To Sum Up:

- Formaldehyde-based holding tank deodorants are the most effective and most popular on the market.
- Formaldehyde is 100% biodegradable – breaking down more easily than most other active ingredient types.
- Formaldehyde is not the cause of waste treatment plant overload.

Formaldehyde Occurs Naturally

Most people don't realize they come into contact with formaldehyde every day. In fact, formaldehyde is the 25th highest volume chemical produced in America.

Many household products such as toothpaste, nail polish, fiberglass insulation, particle board, and permanent press shirts all contain formaldehyde.

It also occurs naturally in the blood stream, apples, spinach, tomato juice and is a common by-product in the metabolism of many other foods.

