

# Construction Resources



## HOLZWEG TECHNICAL SHEET H23

---

### PAINT STRIPPER

**Uses** An alkaline based stripper for the removal of old coats of paint and varnish including oil, natural or alkyd resin paints. All alkaline paint strippers work only on coatings that are saponifiable (i.e. can be turned into a soap form). Thus other synthetic resin paints, such as epoxy resin paint, cannot be dissolved by this stripper. Therefore paint coatings should be tested for suitability and effectiveness in each individual case.

**Properties** *Holzweg Paint Stripper* is a highly effective mixture of alkaline raw materials designed to remove paint without using toxic and dangerous chemicals. Unlike some solvent based strippers **it does not contain dichloromethane (methylene dichloride)**, which has been classed as a class 3 carcinogen by the European Commission.

*Holzweg Stripper* is supplied in powder form to be mixed with water. It is economic in use as it can be used at least twice. Each application will normally remove 1 or 2 old layers of paint, including paint inside small scratches and indentations. The stripper is much gentler on wood than caustic soda.

**Containers** 0.5, 2, 8 and 14 kilogram paper sacks with polyethylene inner sacks.

**Coverage** 1 kilogram of Holzweg Paint Stripper is normally enough to strip about 1.5 m<sup>2</sup> .

**Application** The powder should be mixed with water in a plastic or glass container to a ratio of 1 kilo to 3 litres and left to stand for 20 minutes before use. Less water will make the mixture firmer and therefore easier to apply on fixed vertical surfaces. The finished mixture should be applied with a trowel or similar tool to a thickness of 2 to 5 mm. Allow a period of about 2 to 3 hours for the stripper to take effect: this will vary according to the type and thickness of the paint being removed, **so progress should be checked at regular intervals**. The mixture should not be left to dry out, if this should occur i.e. when used outside on a sunny day, add water sparingly with a garden spray can. Then wash off with a half-and-half solution of vinegar and cold water, followed by a finishing wash with just clean cold water.

It is advisable to test the stripper on a non-visible part of the surface to be stripped. On wood with a high tannin content, particularly oak, but also walnut, maple and fruit trees, the stripper can lead to a brown coloration: however, this can be removed with hydrogen peroxide (bleach). Be especially careful with veneered surfaces, as the adhesives used in these can also be saponifiable, and are hence liable to be softened by the stripper.

**Storage** Keep the sacks closed and dry, in a cool place, out of the reach of children.

**Ingredients** Beech sawdust, cellulose, unslaked lime, potash, starch.

**Safety** **This product is EXTREMELY caustic, and will burn through most substances, including skin, very rapidly.** Wear plastic gloves and eye

protection at all times when using it. If any of the stripper comes into contact with skin, wash immediately and thoroughly with water. Left-over stripper and the stripped-off paint should not be put into household rubbish bins or down the drain, but should be disposed of specially, at council waste disposal points or elsewhere, as caustic material.

**Risk class** Caustic (potassium hydroxide solution).

This technical information sheet is intended to provide guidelines for retailers and users. However, the user is responsible for testing the product on the intended surface to make sure that it is suitable for his or her requirements. This sheet was issued in August 1999 and may be superseded by later editions.

© **CONSTRUCTION RESOURCES** 1999  
16 Great Guildford Street, SE1 0HS  
Tel: 0207 450 2211. Fax: 0207 450 2212.  
Email: [info@ecoconstruct.com](mailto:info@ecoconstruct.com)