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Pressroom Chemistry

In modern day printing the emphasis is on quality and speed of production and in order to achieve both these aims Printchem have developed a range of cleaning solutions for all parts of the press, whether they be sheetfed, web-offset, small offset, conventional, UV, solvent or waterbased printing. This range helps speed up restarts and limit waste through poor quality productions, by helping create a clean and sterile printing environment. The following sections highlight some of the most common areas and biggest selling products we have to offer, before mentioning more specialist areas. With regular use of the appropriate chemistry every printer can help increase their productivity as well as the quality of their work. Those products highlighted in this document are the most popular ones, however, we aim to cater for any particular requirement.

Blanket and Roller washes

For both automatic and manual cleaning and maintaining of pressroom blankets and rollers, ensuring optimum transfer of colour and production of images are achieved.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Water miscible</u>	<u>Evaporation Speed</u>	<u>Aromatic containing</u>	<u>Flashpoint</u>	<u>FOGRA approved</u>	<u>Area of use</u>
PC508	Daily Wash	Yes	Fast/Medium	Yes	~38C	No	Sheetfed and web offset for automatic systems. For cleaning conventional ink systems.
PC527	Low Odour 40WM	Yes	Medium/Fast	No	~41C	No	Sheetfed and web offset – automatic systems. For cleaning conventional ink systems. Low Odour
PC516	60 Degree Wash	Yes	Medium	No	>61C	Yes	Sheetfed and web offset – automatic systems. For cleaning conventional, heatset and coldset ink systems.
PC520	100 Degree Wash	Yes	Slow/Medium	No	>100C	No	VOC free Heatset and coldset wash for automatic systems.
PC525	Bio Wash	Yes	Slow	No	>115C	No	VOC free heatset and coldset wash, containing vegetable oils for increased effectiveness on heatset inks.
PC524	AIH Wash	Yes	Medium	No	>70C	No	Sheetfed offset for cleaning conventional, UV and hybrid inks. Not suitable for EPDM compounds.
PC523	UV Wash	Yes	Medium/Slow	No	>67C	No	Sheetfed offset for cleaning UV and mixed ink systems. Suitable for EPDM compounds.
PC518	Auto UV Wash	Yes	Medium/Slow	No	>75C	Yes	Sheetfed offset for cleaning UV inks. FOGRA approved and safe for EPDM compounds.
PC517	UV EX Wash	Yes	Slow	No	>80C	Yes	Sheetfed offset for cleaning UV inks. FOGRA approved and safe for EPDM compounds with added deep cleaning action.

Manual cleaning solutions and Roller Care

This section gives an insight into some common cleaning solutions used as printers aids and their functions. Many are well known in the industry with some other niche products included as examples.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Water miscible</u>	<u>Evaporation Speed</u>	<u>Aromatic containing</u>	<u>Flashpoint</u>	<u>Details</u>
PC500	Rejuvenator	Yes	Fast	Yes	~34C	Fast acting, highly effective blanket and roller rejuvenator for manual use to cleand and revive deteriorated blanket and roller compounds.
PC323	Meter Roll Cleaner	Yes	Medium	Yes	-25C	Specialist aromatic-free low odour manual cleaning aid for dampening meter rollers, used to desensitize and make the rollers highly water receptive. Also suitable for lototech rollers.
PC311	Ink Stripper	No	Fast	No	NA	Highly effective hard ink dissolver and degreaser.
PC313	RCC	Yes	NA	No	NA	Roller Cleaner and conditioner that acts as a roller shampoo to effectively clean and condition the rollers. Low VOC solvent with plasticisers and citrus odour.
PC318	Idle Unit Lubrication Paste	No	NA	No	NA	Lubricating paste/gel for rollers when in idle mode. Prevents friction resulting in mechanical damage, and prolongs roller life.
PC308	Roller Cleaning Paste	Yes	NA	No	NA	High viscosity paste for deep cleaning of rollers between colour changes. Allows with quick colour changes with enhanced print quality. VOC free.
PC302	Blanket Repair Gel	No	NA	No	NA	Specialist aid used to lift and repair deadspots on deteriorated blankets. Supplied in 250ml tins with applicator brush lid.
PC317	Calcium Removal Jelly	Yes	NA	No	NA	Gelled cleaning agent designed to help remove unwanted calcium and magnesium deposits from the rollers. Suitable for most roller types.
PC540	PC Anilox Fresh	Yes	NA	No	NA	Gelled deep clean solution for anilox rollers which works on even dried waterbased deposits improving anilox capacity.

As well as those listed we are able to formulate to every printers' taste and requirements. Below is a summary of alternative cleaning solutions not already mentioned:

- **WB Coating Cleaners** – Cleaning chemicals aimed at waterbased coatings and inks.
- **Deglazing solutions** – liquids and pastes specifically designed to remove glaze from blankets.
- **Water Wash Additive** – additives for the wash cycle to remove bacteria and contamination from the printing system.
- **Ceramic and Chrome Roller Cleaners** – Each formulated suitable to the material they are to be used on without attack.
- **Damperwash** – Damper cover cleaning emulsion
- **Universal Pressroom Cleaner** – In trigger sprays for use on pressroom parts such as side shields and can be used as a mild ink remover.
- **Hand Cleaners** – high viscosity as well as pump bottles – safe to use formulas with excellent cleaning.
- **Surface Tension Reducers** – Additive to help increase the cleaning ability of the wash.

Plate Care

Maintaining an effective working plate is one of the keys to producing consistent high quality printing images with repeat work. We offer all manner of additives and cleaning solutions to help preserve all kinds of plates in printing. Below are detailed some of the main products we offer.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Details</u>
PC200	Ultra Clean	Suitable for all plate types with powerful cleaning and mild abrasive action.
PC206	Daily Plate Cleaner	General Purpose plate cleaner with good cleaning on conventional offset inks.
PC202	Daily Plate Cleaner Plus	Higher strength version of PC206 with abrasives and increased solvency.
PC209	PC HD Plate Clean	Stronger most powerful plate cleaner on the range – not recommended for unbaked plates or CTP.
PC205	Printchem Gum	Natural gum solution with preservative for prolonged plate storage and desensitization.
PC203	Washout Gum	Dual purpose cleaner and short term plate saver with gum Arabic.
PC214	UV Plate Cleaner	Formulated especially for cleaning UV printing inks.

Again we aim to meet all requirements and listed below are examples of some other products we can currently offer:

- **Etching solutions** – For etching images on plates.
- **Scratch Removers** – Used to repair and desensitize scratched areas prolonging the life of plates.
- **Auto Plate wash** – An automatic plate wash solution.
- **Plate Developers** – For Positive and Negative working plates, available in concentrate and ready to use form.
- **Specialist plate cleaners** – For Polyester, digital waterless and other such “special requirement” plate types.

Sundry Products

These include items as follows, which largely each fulfil their own specific function in terms of aiding the printing process:

- **Silicone Spray** – Adds slip to machine parts making them water/dirt repellent at the same time.
- **Anti Skin Spray** – Prevents premature drying of inks in-can and in the duct.
- **Anti Static Spray** – Reduces friction caused by static build up allowing for smoother release of paper and parts.
- **Lubrication Spray** – Like WD40, this lubricates machine parts reducing mechanical friction prolonging their life.
- **Colour Start Spray** – Provides quicker start-ups and inhibits oxidation of inks.
- **Spray Powders** – Available in 15-30micron to suit all paper types.
- **Barrier Cream** – Protective cream to be applied to skin before handling chemicals that help inhibit dermatitis and skin cracking – should be used in combination with suitable gloves – is not a replacement for gloves.

Further technical information such as shelf life, storage, handling etc can be found on our Technical data sheets.

For further information regarding this or other product ranges please contact the team at Printchem: info@printchem.co.uk