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## ALKALINE DEGREASER LA-1



**MANUFACTURER : SHERWIN / NDT EUROPA**

### **DESCRIPTION / APPLICATION(S):**

#### Benefits:

- Compatible with all metals
- Produces very little foam
- Operates at low temperatures
- Not flammable
- Can serve as an alternative for vapour phase degreasing

The LA-1 degreasing agent has been designed specially for cleaning parts before subjecting them to penetrant testing.

#### **It is a cleaning agent compatible with penetrants.**


LA-1 degreaser agent may serve as an alternative for chlorinated solvents in vapor phase to prepare parts just before their being penetrant testing.

LA-1 is a light yellow liquid. It can be used on all metals, whether ferrous or non-ferrous, including aluminum, magnesium, nickel and titanium alloys.

It eliminates light oils such as cutting or forming oils, most light rust preventatives, and organic soils accumulated during part manufacturing. When used as a spray or for immersion with agitation, it removes grit and chips. It does not remove mineral soils such as corrosion products.

**LA-1 therefore fulfils the functions of a degreasing agent in the vapour phase. It can also remove metallic and sand particles if used appropriately.**

LA-1 complies with the most common requirements in terms of non-toxicity and non-corrosion, ignition point, and other parameters.

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It is non toxic in accordance with applicable classifications.

**It contains no sodium, sulphur, chlorine, fluorine, nitrites, nor chromates, and does not corrode titanium alloys.**

While having been designed primarily for use before penetrant testing, LA-1 is an excellent all purpose alkali detergent for parts subject to medium organic matter pollution.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Before penetrant testing, you must:

- **Perfectly clean the surface of the part and the inside of the discontinuities from pollutants,**
- **Ensure that degreasing product leaves no residue.**

Actually, a number of alkali detergents leave a very hard deposit that adheres strongly to the parts after rinsing; this is **obviously a situation which is incompatible with further penetrant testing.**


LA-1 has been actually designed so as not to leave any traces on parts.

**LA-1 advantages :**

- Penetrant compatible
- Compatible with all metals, including aluminum, magnesium, nickel and titanium alloys.
- No chromate, chlorine, sulphur, or sodium salts.
- Low foaming.
- Free rinsing.
- Can be used with air or mechanical agitation.
- Effective at low concentrations.
- Lower materials costs compared to vapour degreasing.

**PACKAGING/TRANSPORT/STORAGE :**

- . Packaging : 10L, 60L
- . Transport / Handling : refer to MSDS (material safety data sheet)
- . Storage / Shelf life : 24 months.

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## **INSTRUCTIONS :**

LA-1 is used either by spraying or by immersion.

### 1. **APPLICATION**

#### 1.1. **Spray:**

Dilute the LA-1 at 3-5 % volume/volume in water, in a recirculation spray system. Although LA-1 is already effective at room temperature, working between 50 and 60° C, at a pressure of 1.5 to 2.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> gives even better results. Contact time should be 1 to 2 minutes. Rinse in accordance with paragraph 2.

#### 1.2. **Immersion:**

Dilute at 10-20 % in water. Place in a mechanically or air agitation tank. The ideal temperature is 50 to 60°C. (120 to 140°F)

Immersion time depends on the type and degree of impurities.

Experience will lead to defining the optimum immersion time. Allow the parts to drain over the tank to minimize drag-out before rinsing.

Rinse in accordance with paragraph 2.

### 2. **RINSING**

Thoroughly rinse the parts with water, either by spraying or by immersion in an agitated tank with overflow. Water temperature shall be between room temperature and 60°C (140°F); warm water is preferred.


Rinse sufficiently to remove all cleaner/soil contamination from the surface. Do not allow cleaner to dry on the surface.

Thorough rinsing is absolutely mandatory.

In some cases, preferably use demineralised water.

### 3. **DRYING**

**Thoroughly** dry before applying the penetrant. Drying should not only result in the evaporation of surface water, but also in that of the water enclosed in the discontinuities. A recirculating drying oven is recommended whenever LA-1 is used as a degreasing agent before penetrant testing.

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#### 4. SOLUTION MAINTENANCE

It is preferable to restore the adequate LA-1 concentration regularly, so as to have more consistent results over time. A concentration procedure is available.

**LA-1** can absorb large quantities of pollutants. However, from time to time, the used bath should be replaced with a new one. Check with local authorities regarding waste treatment.

#### IMPORTANT:

When the LA-1 solution is not agitated, an apparently oily film may form on the surface.

**This is not oil: do not remove it.** It is an essential element of the formulation and you would reduce the effectiveness of **LA-1** if you did remove it.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY** : refer to MSDS.

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