
TECHNICAL BULLETIN

NUMBER

25

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Subject: Stainless Steel Cleaner and Plastic Parts **Date: July 14, 2009**
Applies to: All stainless steel equipment with plastic parts

Investigation into reports of plastic parts failure on various FETCO LUXUS Dispensers has determined that the failure is caused by stainless steel cleaners containing the commonly used solvent diethylene glycol butyl ether (DGBE).

DGBE causes disintegration of plastic parts it comes in contact with during normal equipment cleaning.

This solvent is known under a variety of chemical identifiers: Butyl Diglycol, Diethylene Glycol Mono-n-butyl ether, 2-hydroxy-2butoxy-diethyl ether.

Commercially it is known as a Butyl Carbitol.

In addition, there are stainless steel cleaners containing solvents similar to DGBE which may also be harmful to plastic parts. The chemical names of some of these are listed at the end of this bulletin.

This information applies to all plastics of any manufacture.
FETCO recommends that **no** stainless steel cleaner be used around plastic parts without first checking with the cleaner manufacturer that it is safe for use on or around plastics.

Any contact with this cleaner causes plastic parts to disintegrate and will cause damage to other non-stainless steel elements as well.

To clean stainless steel liners FETCO recommends only dish soap, alcohol, or glass cleaner liquids.

Additional chemically-related solvents are Glycol Ethers like Ethylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether, Ethylene Glycol MonoButyl Ether, Diethylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether, Ethylene Glycol Monoethyl Ether, and Diethylene Glycol Monoethyl Ether.

For additional information please contact FETCO Technical Services at 800-338-2699.