

**TITLE:** Surface Decontamination of Arsenic Compounds (Arsenic Trioxide (As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>))  
by DeconGel™

## **ABSTRACT**

Surface decontamination efficacy determination of DeconGel™ on stainless steel, carbon steel, and concrete surfaces contaminated with arsenic (arsenic trioxide (As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)) was performed using ICP-OES (Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectroscopy) according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SW-846 Methods: 3005A (sampling) and 6010C (analysis).

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEVANCE**

Arsenic compounds are used as insecticides and are used to make semiconductors. Arsenic compounds are inhalation hazards and are toxic if ingested. Arsenic Trioxide was chosen as a representative arsenic compound for evaluating DeconGel's efficacy; DeconGel is expected to have similar efficacy towards the wide range of arsenic compounds.

## **SUMMARY RESULTS**

- Excellent surface decontamination was achieved by applying DeconGel onto surfaces contaminated with arsenic (arsenic trioxide) resulting in encapsulation of contaminants by DeconGel's active components. Decontamination efficacies of DeconGel ranged from 99.8% (on concrete) to 99.3% (on carbon steel) to 99.6% (on stainless steel) as determined by swipe analysis.
- Optimized experimental and analytical methods were successfully developed following standardized EPA sampling and analysis methods as guidelines for determination of inorganic compounds in aqueous samples. When necessary, experimental methods were customized to afford complete dissolution of inorganic contaminants, and to ensure accurate decontamination efficacy determination of DeconGel.

## **RESULTS**

Table 1 shows the decontamination efficacies of DeconGel on stainless steel, carbon steel, and concrete surfaces contaminated with arsenic trioxide as determined by residual swipe testing.

**Table 1.** Decontamination efficacy of DeconGel on arsenic trioxide (As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) on stainless steel, carbon steel, and concrete surfaces as determined by the residue swipe testing method.

Swipe Testing (ppm)		Formulation
		DeconGel 1101
Stainless Steel	Control	513.0 ± 37.4
	Residual	1.8 ± 1.3
	Decon. Efficacy (%)	<b>99.6 ± 7.8</b>
Carbon Steel	Control	539.4 ± 20.8
	Residual	3.8 ± 3.0
	Decon. Efficacy (%)	<b>99.3 ± 6.7</b>
Concrete	Control	487.7 ± 18.0
	Residual	1.1 ± 0.6
	Decon. Efficacy (%)	<b>99.8 ± 4.0</b>

2280x dilution factor for samples and controls

**NOTES**

- ASTM method E1728-03 (a standardized swipe testing method used for the sampling of inorganic contaminants) was the integral method used to accurately evaluate DeconGel’s decontamination efficacy. GhostWipe™ (Environmental Express; Mt. Pleasant, SC) swipes (pre-wetted with DI H<sub>2</sub>O) were utilized in this swipe testing method.
- Standardized EPA SW-846 Sampling Method 3005A “Acid Digestion of Waters for Total Recoverable or Dissolved Metals for Analysis by FLAA or ICP Spectroscopy” was followed as a guideline to prepare all samples and controls. Because potassium ferricyanide reacts violently with acid releasing poisonous cyanide gas, all samples were digested solely in DI H<sub>2</sub>O (≥ 17 M-Ohm). To reduce the viscosity of samples, a 1:00 dilution in water took place on all samples and controls after ample soaking and vigorous shaking to incorporate any contaminant contained within swipes and to ensure full dissolution of the gel. All samples, controls, and standards were prepared using the same dissolution solution and experimental conditions to ensure both correct instrument calibration and accurate analytical results.
- To ensure accurate determination of DeconGel decontamination efficacy, calibration standards of the analyte of interest were prepared using either a sufficiently pure analyte or an appropriate ICP-MS Standard (Ricca Chemical Company; Arlington, TX); the respective standards were diluted to a known concentration (ppm) using the same digestion method as that used for samples and controls. Instrument blank controls were DI H<sub>2</sub>O (≥17 M-Ohm).
- ICP-OES instrumentation is a sensitive and accurate analytical tool for qualitative and quantitative determination of a large number of inorganic compounds. Standardized EPA SW-846 Analytical Method 6010C “Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectrometry” was followed as a guideline to prepare all samples and controls. To ensure accurate determination of DeconGel decontamination efficacy, calibration standards of the analyte of interest were prepared using either a sufficiently pure analyte or an appropriate ICP-MS

Standard (Ricca Chemical Company; Arlington, TX); the respective standards were diluted to a known concentration (ppm) using the same digestion method as the one used for samples and controls. Instrument blank controls were DI H<sub>2</sub>O ( $\geq 17$  M-Ohm).

## **CALCULATIONS**

*Decontamination Efficacy (Swipe Testing) =*

$[(\text{Contaminant (ppm) of Swipe Control}) - (\text{Contaminant (ppm) of Residual Swipe}) / \text{Contaminant (ppm) of Swipe Control}] \times 100\%$

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### Sample Method

In a typical procedure, 0.05 g of contaminant was evenly applied on 1) stainless steel (commercial grade, surface area: 56.3 cm<sup>2</sup>), 2) carbon steel (commercial grade, surface area: 100 cm<sup>2</sup>), or 3) concrete (industrial grade, surface area: 56.3 cm<sup>2</sup>) coupons. Approximately 6.0 g of DeconGel was poured onto the contaminated surface and let to dry for 24-48 h. Dried DeconGel samples were peeled off the contaminated surface, and the surface was swipe tested (ASTM method E1728-03) using a GhostWipe™ swipe (Environmental Express; Mt. Pleasant, SC). Swipes were suspended in 100 mL aqueous acidic solution (20% HCl, 15% HNO<sub>3</sub>, 65% deionized (DI) H<sub>2</sub>O) for 24 hours and analyzed via ICP-OES (see below).

### Control Methods

For swipe controls, 0.05 g As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was evenly applied on 1) stainless steel (commercial grade, surface area: 56.3 cm<sup>2</sup>), 2) carbon steel (commercial grade, surface area: 100 cm<sup>2</sup>), or 3) concrete (industrial grade, surface area: 56.3 cm<sup>2</sup>) coupons, and the surface was swipe tested (ASTM method 1728-03) using a GhostWipe™ swipe (Environmental Express; Mt. Pleasant, SC). Swipe samples were suspended in 100 mL aqueous acidic solution (15% HCl, 15% HNO<sub>3</sub>, 70% DI H<sub>2</sub>O) for 24 h and analyzed via ICP-OES (see below).

### Reagents and Standards

Reagent grade Arsenic Trioxide, As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, (CAS# 1327-53-3, Fisher Scientific; Fair Lawn, NJ), was used as received.

A 1000 ppm calibration standard was prepared using reagent grade powdered As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and freshly prepared aqueous acidic solution (20% HCl, 15% HNO<sub>3</sub>, 65% DI H<sub>2</sub>O). DI H<sub>2</sub>O ( $\geq 17$  M-Ohm) was used as the blank sample.

### Analytical Instrumentation.

A Thermo ICP-OES instrument model radial iCap 6300 was used to determine As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> concentration (ppm) of all samples and controls using a freshly prepared 1000 ppm calibration standard.

Analyte (arsenic) analyzed at 228.8 nm; Pump Speed: 0.5 mL/min.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR END-USERS

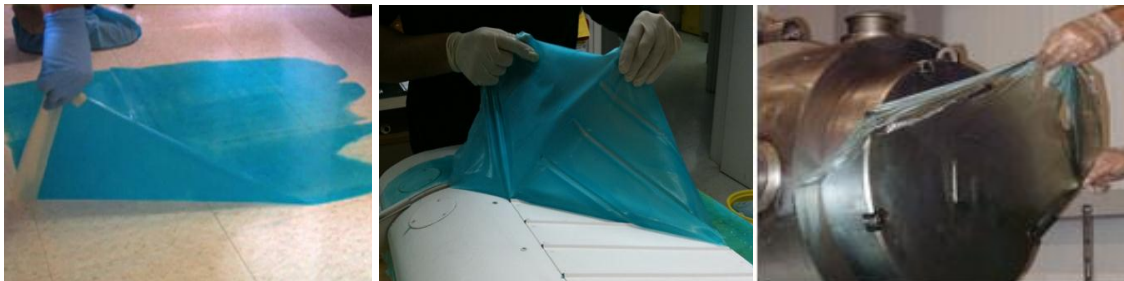
Use product directly as is from container. DO NOT DILUTE. Masking or painters tape can be applied along one edge of the area that is to be decontaminated to aid creating a peeled edge to grip for peeling the dried film. Apply DeconGel using a paint brush, a trowel, a handheld sprayer, or an industrial grade sprayer.

The thickness of the gel and the number of coats is dictated by the surface to be decontaminated. Coating thickness required for good peel characteristics varies with substrate and generally increases with substrate porosity. It is recommended that first time customers test DeconGel on a small sample area to confirm the required film thickness and dry time for their specific application. If the film is difficult to peel, please apply an additional coat. A razor blade is useful to start the peel. Lay the blade nearly flat and fillet the edge of the film to create a tab that can be pulled. For surfaces that the gel adheres to well, such as concrete, 12" – 24" strips can be cut in the film resulting in less force being required to peel the film.

### ➤ Let DeconGel dry for 24 hours

Dry time will vary depending on humidity, temperature, air flow and thickness of the DeconGel. This can take from as little time as an hour for thin coats in a dry environment with plenty of airflow, to overnight or longer if thicker coats are applied in humid environments. Dry times exceeding 24 hours may sometimes be required for good peel performance on bare concrete, wood and other highly porous substrates and substrates with deep cracks or grooves. However, 18-24 hours is often sufficient dry time on good quality concrete. It is recommended that users test a small area to determine drying time prior to applying DeconGel for an entire job. Supplemental heat or air circulation will accelerate DeconGel's drying time for any job.

### ➤ Peel DeconGel off the surface by starting from one of the edges



When dry, the product locks the contaminants into a polymer matrix. The film containing the encapsulated contamination can then be peeled. DeconGel peels from most non-porous and porous hard surfaces if the dried film is thick enough. If the film is difficult to peel, add another coat, let dry, and peel. In most cases the DeconGel will come off in a single sheet but for odd shaped surfaces you may be required to score DeconGel in order to peel it off.

- Dispose of the dried DeconGel in accordance with the local, state and Federal disposal regulations of the contaminant/substance you are removing. DeconGel itself has no special disposal restrictions.

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For questions about DeconGel or to place an order, visit our website at [www.decongel.com](http://www.decongel.com) or contact us at:

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