

Surface Care Industry Under Scrutiny as Consumers Demand Safer Ingredient Standards

Naturally derived alternatives to petroleum distillates and synthetic silicones gain traction among automotive and home care enthusiasts.

TAMPA, FL, UNITED STATES, August 28, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Growing consumer awareness around ingredient safety is prompting a closer look at the surface care industry, where petroleum distillates, synthetic silicones, and harsh chemical solvents remain the dominant formulation standard — despite documented health and surface integrity concerns.



A Zymol cleaned Kitchen

Industry experts and long-time formulators are pointing to [naturally derived](#) alternatives — including [carnauba wax](#), beeswax, and botanical oils — as both safer for users and more effective for long-term surface health.

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Charles Bennett Zymöl
Founder & CEO

Petroleum Distillates and Silicones: A Closer Look
Petroleum distillates are hydrocarbon-based solvents derived from crude oil refining. While effective at cutting through grease and oxidation, they are recognized skin irritants and carry documented respiratory risks with prolonged exposure, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Synthetic silicones, widely used for their instant shine effect, form an

occlusive barrier on treated surfaces that prevents natural materials — leather, wood, and painted finishes — from breathing. Over time, silicone buildup can trap moisture and impede the bonding of subsequent treatments, accelerating surface degradation rather than preventing it. Harsh distillates — concentrated hydrocarbon fractions — carry similar concerns, with higher

volatility and a greater risk of off-gassing during application, particularly in enclosed spaces.

The Case for Naturally Derived Ingredients

Carnauba wax, harvested from the leaves of the *Copernicia prunifera* palm in Brazil and Florida, has been used as a protective surface coating for over a century. Non-toxic and biodegradable, it forms a hard, breathable protective layer that bonds naturally with painted and lacquered surfaces without sealing out moisture. Its exceptionally high melting point makes it durable under heat and UV exposure.

Beeswax offers similar breathability with added conditioning properties suited to leather and wood. Botanical oils — including coconut, jojoba, and evergreen oil — provide deep penetration and nourishment to porous surfaces without the occlusive drawbacks of silicone.

Critically, these ingredients do not off-gas volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at room temperature, do not require solvent-resistant gloves, and do not trigger the same dermal sensitization pathways as petroleum-based compounds with repeated use.

Long-Term Surface Integrity

The impact of synthetic ingredients extends beyond immediate health concerns. Petroleum distillates applied repeatedly can leach plasticizers from rubber seals and trim. Silicone layers, built up over multiple applications, create a barrier that makes future paint correction nearly impossible without aggressive chemical stripping. Naturally derived ingredients work with the chemistry of the surface. Carnauba bonds at a molecular level with clear coat finishes. Botanical oils replenish



Safe Natural Wash



Electric Car Hand Wash Only

the natural oils lost from leather as it ages — resulting in surfaces that are healthier over time, not just visually improved in the short term.

Industry Perspective

"Consumers who read labels on their food and skincare products deserve the same transparency from the products they use in their garages, on their furniture, and in their [homes](#)," said Charles Bennett, founder of Zymöl, a surface care company that has formulated exclusively with naturally derived ingredients since its founding.

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