

Amine-based surfactant thickeners

Effective thickening for enhanced product performance

With amine-based surfactant thickeners, effective thickening across the whole pH range can be achieved plus stability in chlorine and hydrogen peroxide bleach. Choose from our broad portfolio of amine-based surfactants to provide a cost effective thickening solution for your customers. High performance cleaning formulations with custom rheology begin with these products.

Amine-based surfactants include amine oxides, ethoxylated amines and quaternary ammonium surfactants.

Amine-based thickeners

- Can be used at any pH
- Are stable in chlorine and hydrogen peroxide bleach
- Enable fragrance solubilization
- Enhance cleaning and foaming
- Support disinfection
- Provide corrosion inhibition

Moderate to extreme thickening

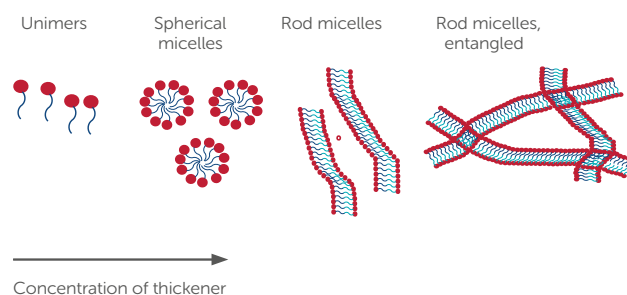
Cleaning formulations are thickened to increase the contact time on inclined or vertical surfaces like toilet bowls and tiled walls. The longer adherence results in an improved removal of soil, limescale and microorganisms as well as extended perfume release for better air-freshening.



The higher viscosity generated by these products allows for an improved control of dosage and increases the safety of your formulations by avoiding splashes and leaking.

How does this work?

The guiding principle in understanding the function of amine-based surfactants as thickening agents is the model of rod micelle formation. Viscosity increase is due to entanglement of the rod-like micelles which spontaneously form in solution with these surfactant products. The viscosity level that can be achieved gets higher as the alkyl chain length of the surfactant hydrophobe gets longer.



The rheology profile of the final formulation can be controlled with small amounts of additives. This also decreases the amount of amine-based surfactant needed to achieve the desired viscosity level.

- Organic salts such as SXS, SCS, soaps, as well as electrolytes (sodium chloride, sodium carbonate) act as desolubilizers which promote rod-like micelle formation and consequently an increase in viscosity
- Ethoxylated alcohols, e.g. Bero^l® 175 or Ethylan[®] 1008 surfactants have a solubilization effect which helps to avoid the viscoelastic region where the formulation does not flow and has no practical use

Amine-based surfactant thickener portfolio

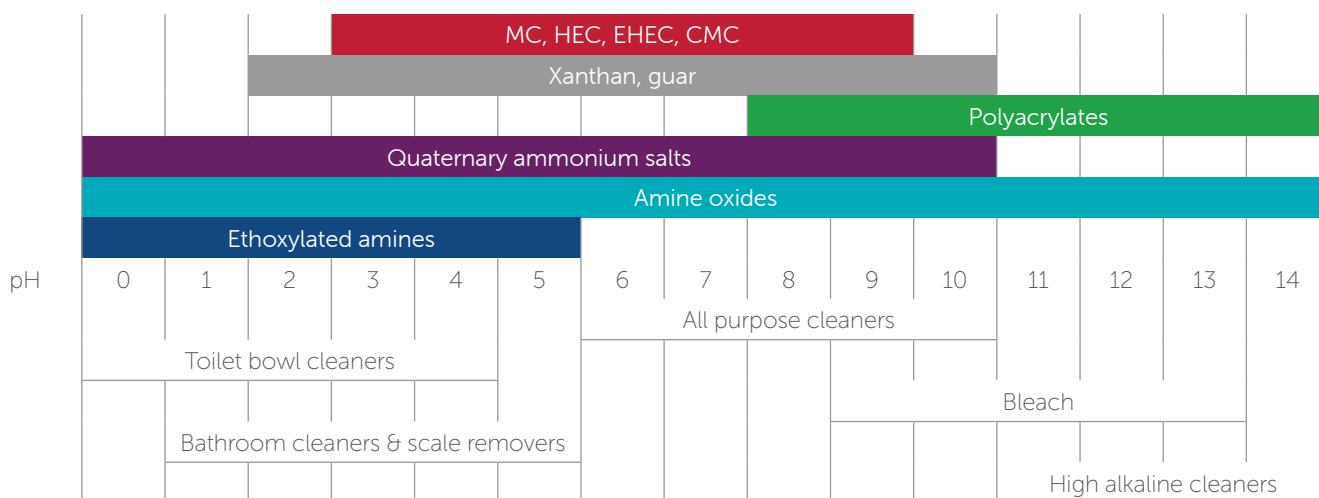
| Product | Application | Key features |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ethoxylated amines | Toilet Bowl Cleaner (TBC), acidic bathroom cleaners | Use for pH <5 – versatile thickening systems that are stable in strong and weak acids |
| Ethomeen® C/12 | | Effective in thickening blends with hydrophobic components |
| Ethomeen® O/12, O/12LC | | Liquid at room temperature for easy handling (LC for low color) |
| Ethomeen® T/12 | | Paste, cost-effective option for thickening strong acids |
| Ethomeen® HT/12 | | Hydrophobic product effective for thickening weaker acids |
| Quaternary ammonium salts | TBC, acidic and alkaline bathroom cleaners | Suitable for use at all pH's Stable in hydrogen peroxide containing bleach |
| Arquad® 16-29, 16-50 | | |
| Arquad® T-50 | | |
| Amine oxides | High alkaline and hypochlorite cleaners, acidic, alkaline and neutral cleaners | Suitable for use at all pH's Stable in alkaline and chlorine-containing bleach |
| Aromox® 14D-W970 | | Low heavy metal content, does not decompose chlorine bleach |
| Aromox® T/12, T/12 HFP | | Effective for thickening NaOH |

Optimizing performance by blending products

Effective thickening systems for specific applications can be obtained with blends of amine-based surfactants. The desired viscosity is achieved by optimizing the ratio of the components and the concentration of the blend.

Formulations with amine-based surfactant blends exhibit shear thinning behavior. The cleaning product becomes thinner when it is squeezed out of the bottle, making it easy to dispense, and becomes thicker when it hits the surface allowing it to cling and prevent run off.

- Ethomeen® T/12 and Arquad® T-50 surfactant blends provide efficient thickening for hydrochloric acid at up to 15%, avoiding unwanted fluid elasticity
- Ethomeen® HT/12 and Ethomeen® C/12 surfactants blends provide an efficient thickening system for weaker acids



Natural polymers (xanthan gum, guar gum) are not stable at extreme pHs. Synthetic polymers such as polyacrylates are less stable in strong acidic conditions.

In addition to being very stable across the whole pH range, amine-based surfactant thickeners can also contribute to cleaning, foaming, solubilization and stability of the formula.

Formulations

Our broad portfolio of amine-based surfactants provides flexible thickening solutions for a wide range of applications. All formulations are expressed in percent of product by weight as supplied.

Weak acids

| Ingredients, % w/w | Citric acid | | | Phosphoric acid | | | | Oxalic acid | | | | Sulfamic acid | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|------|-------------|------|------|------|---------------|------|------|
| Citric acid, 100% | 5 | 5 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phosphoric acid, 30% | | | | 5 | 10 | 5 | 10 | | | | | | | |
| Oxalic acid, 100% | | | | | | | | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | | | |
| Sulfamic acid, 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 10 | 5 |
| Ethomeen® O/12 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| Ethomeen® T/12 | | | | | | | | | | | 1.5 | 2 | 2 | 1.5 |
| Arquad® T-50 | | 2 | 2 | | | 1.5 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Sodium Xylene Sulfonate (SXS) | 1 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Berol® 175 | | | | | | | | | 0.3 | | | | | |
| Water | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. |
| Viscosity, cps sp 3 @30 rpm | 400 | 290 | 110 | 1350 | 320 | 470 | 510 | 1290 | 580 | 470 | 560 | 550 | 790 | 550 |

Strong acids

| Ingredients, % w/w | Hydrochloric acid | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| Hydrochloric acid, 37% | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 25.6 | 25.6 | 25.6 | |
| Ethomeen® O/12 | 1.5 | 1.5 | | | 3 | | | |
| Ethomeen® T/12 | | | | 2 | | 1 | 1.5 | |
| Aromox® T/12 | | | 1.5 | | | | | |
| Arquad® T-50 | | 1.5 | 1.5 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Berol® 175 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Water | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | |
| Viscosity, cps sp 3 @30 rpm | 420 | 480 | 320 | 300 | 630 | 700 | 1500 | |



Alkaline and bleaching agents

| Ingredients, % w/w | NaOH | | | Hydrogen peroxide | | Sodium hypochlorite |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|---------------------|
| NaOH, 100% | 10 | 5 | 5 | | | 0.5 |
| Hydrogen peroxide, 100% | | | | 16.7 | 16.7 | |
| Sodium hypochlorite, 15% | | | | | | 70 |
| Citric acid, 100% | | | | 3 | | |
| Sulfamic acid, 100% | | | | | 3 | |
| Sodium Xylene Sulfonate (SXS) | 1.5 | | 1 | 1.5 | 1.5 | |
| Aromox® 14D-W970 | 3 | | | | | 4 |
| Aromox® T/12 | | 1 | | | | |
| Arquad® T-50 | | | 2.5 | | 3.5 | |
| Arquad® 16-29 | | | | 3.5 | | |
| Sodium carbonate | | | | | | 4 |
| Water | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. | q.s. |
| Viscosity, cps sp 3 @30 rpm | 180 | 350 | 580 | 670 | 400 | 600 |

Typical procedure for formulating amine-based surfactant thickeners:

1. Add acid or NaOH to water
Add also bleaching agent if required
2. Predilute fragrance in the surfactant (thickener) and add the mixture to the acid/caustic solution
3. Add desolubilizer (SXS) to increase the viscosity
4. Adjust flow behavior with Berol® 175 or Ethylan® 1008 surfactants

Contact us directly for detailed product information and sample request
website | nouryon.com/markets/cleaning
email | cleaning@nouryon.com



Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date on this and other Nouryon Cleaning Goods solutions.

Nouryon

Nouryon is a global, specialty chemicals leader. Markets and consumers worldwide rely on our essential solutions to manufacture everyday products, such as personal care, cleaning goods, paints and coatings, agriculture and food, pharmaceuticals, and building products. Furthermore, the dedication of approximately 8,200 employees with a shared commitment to our customers, business growth, safety, sustainability and innovation has resulted in a consistently strong financial performance. We operate in over 80 countries around the world with a portfolio of industry-leading brands. Visit our website and follow us @Nouryon and on LinkedIn.

All information concerning our products and/or all suggestions for handling and use contained herein (including formulation and toxicity information) are offered in good faith and are believed to be reliable. However, Nouryon makes no warranty express or implied (i) as to the accuracy or sufficiency of such information and/or suggestions, (ii) as to any product's merchantability or fitness for a particular use or (iii) that any suggested use (including use in any formulation) will not infringe any patent. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as granting or extending any license under any patent. The user must determine for itself by preliminary tests or otherwise the suitability of any product and of any information contained herein (including but not limited to formulation and toxicity information) for the user's purpose. The safety of any formulations described herein has not been established. The suitability and safety of a formulation should be confirmed in all respects by the user prior to use. The information contained herein supersedes all previously issued bulletins on the subject matter covered.

Products mentioned are trademarks of Nouryon and registered in many countries.

nouryon.com