



Protecting Paints with Preservatives

Preservatives are indispensable for modern paints, coatings and printing inks

Preservatives are indispensable for most solvent-free, water-based paints, coatings and printing inks: they prolong their shelf life and prevent mould formation and algae growth. Thus, they make important contributions to consumer protection, the conservation of resources within a circular economy and cut costs. Due to the large number of harmful organisms and potential resistances, it is necessary to maintain a range of active substances and the possibility of combining them. Especially in the do-it-yourself sector, it is emerging that this might no longer be safeguarded in the future.

Only few preservatives for paints and coatings remain available

The use of preservatives is only permitted after a complex procedure according to the European Biocidal Products Regulation. This achieves a high level of protection for consumer health and the environment. However, the current evaluation practice causes a situation where only few active substances remain available for paints, coatings and printing inks which are effective while meeting the relevant regulatory conditions. In particular, the in-can preservative are affected. Also, the high regulatory hurdles so high that no new active substances can be expected.

Modern paints and coatings can be used safely

Paints and coatings with preservatives can be applied safely when used as intended. Already today, restrictions in the course of the approval of active substances lead to many safe and efficient products losing their functionality or being no longer available to end users. Excessive labelling requirements can bring a flood of information and a levelling in the perception of risk, which does not serve consumer protection.

This is what we are calling for

✓ Preservatives must remain available for paints and coatings

The few remaining preservatives relevant for paints and coatings must be maintained. In order to find workable solutions, the discussion launched at EU level should continue with the participation of the Commission and all Member States. A high level of protection for processors and end consumers, while keeping up functioning preservation at the same time, can only be safeguarded in a holistic approach.

✓ Conditions with a sense of proportion

No disproportionate requirements must be made in the approval of active substances, the authorisation procedure for biocidal products or regarding the conditions for treated articles. It should also be possible to use the own scope provided for by legislation.

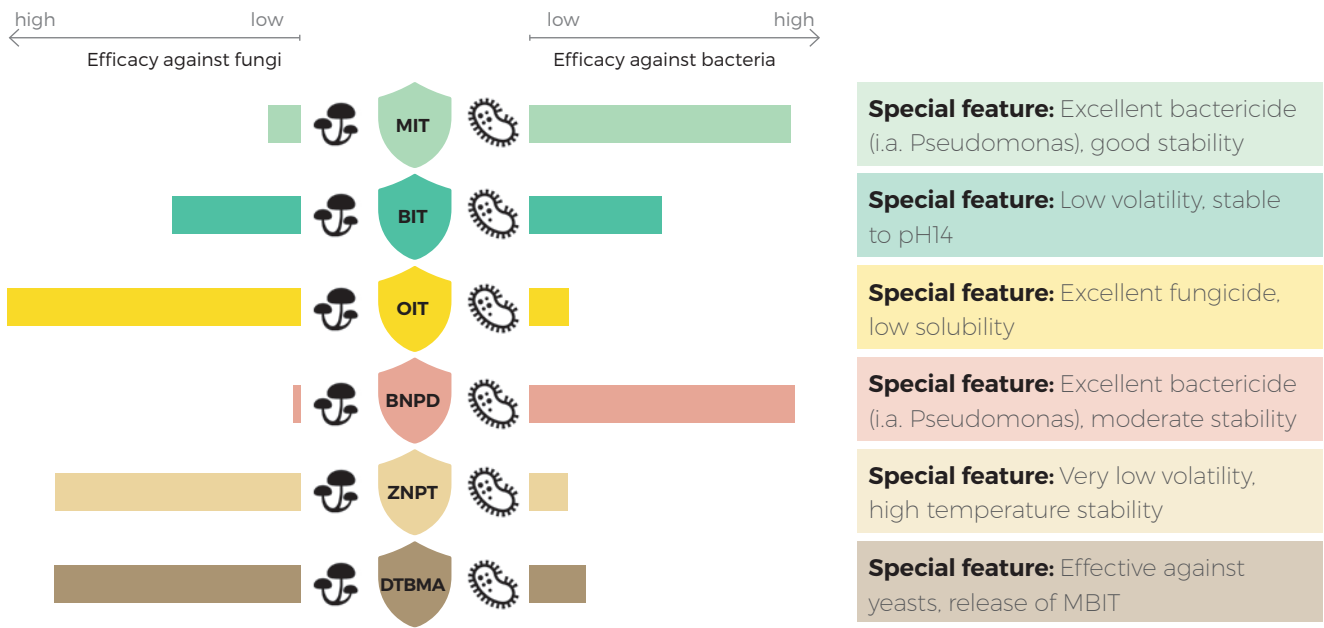
✓ Take into account the benefits of preservatives

In the assessment of active substances and biocidal products, their benefits must be given a greater role. The corona crisis shows that biocides and their availability are highly relevant to society. General reservations can cause serious damage to national economies and concrete disadvantages for consumers.



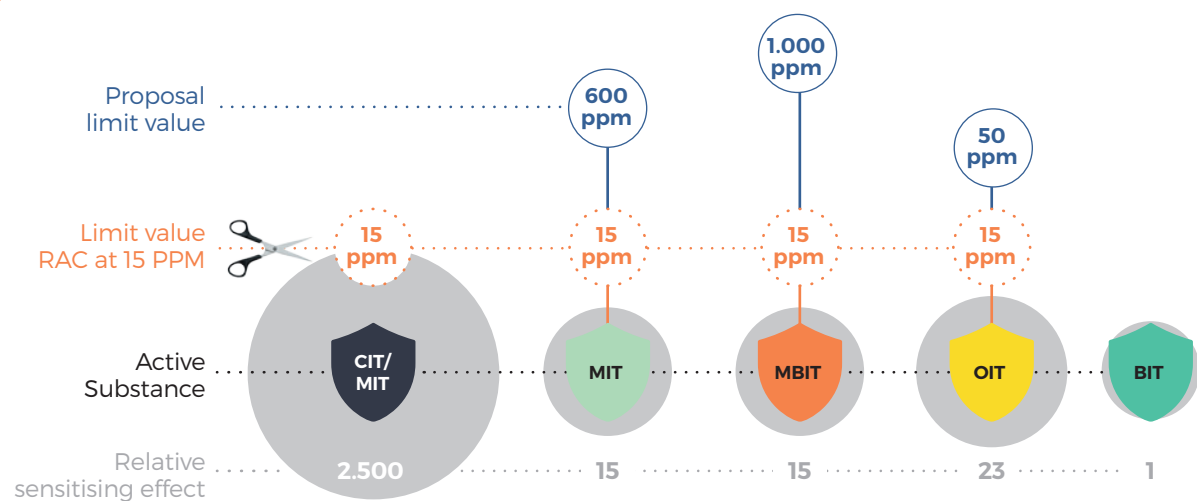
Preservatives have different effects,

Therefore, a modular system with different active substances is needed!



No differentiation by EU institution

Irrespective of differences in the skin sensitising effect, the Commissions wants to bring about one uniform limit value for the important group of isothiazolinones



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