



U.S. Product Stewardship Summary: NTA and Salts

Nitrilotriacetic acid and its salts includes 3 products sold by AkzoNobel in the U.S.

<u>Common name</u>	<u>CASN</u>	<u>CAS name</u>
NTANa ₃ liquid	5064-31-3	Glycine, N,N-bis(carboxymethyl), trisodium salt
NTANa ₃ crystals (NTANa ₃ – monohydrate)	18662-52-8	Glycine, N,N-bis(carboxymethyl), trisodium salt, monohydrate
NTAH ₃ (acid)	139-13-9	Glycine, N,N-bis(carboxymethyl)

These products, particularly the NTANa₃ crystals were once used in large amounts in various household cleaners and detergents in North America. In the 1970s – phosphates, which cause water pollution due to eutrophication - were replaced with NTA in laundry detergents. However the use of NTA in laundry detergents was short lived when NTP (<http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/>) and IARC (<http://www.iarc.fr/>) classified NTA and its salts as *possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B)*. This classification was based on high dose testing of animals and its relevance to humans is unknown. None the less the classification effectively ruled out the use of NTA in household cleaners in the mid 1980s in the U.S.

As of this writing (March 2009) NTA is still used in many cleaners in Canada and in Europe. However in the U.S. NTA is used almost exclusively in industrial processing operations (hydrocarbon gas scrubbing to remove H₂S, polymerization aid for some plastics) and for some industrial cleaning applications (truck washing). Few if any household cleaners are formulated with NTA in the U.S. The use of NTA in principally industrial processing and the general lack of use in household cleaners greatly diminishes human exposure potential.

From an environmental standpoint NTA does offer a benefit – it is readily biodegradable. Whenever possible new inquiries for chelates are usually directed to Dissolvine[®] GL – a product that is considered safe and is readily biodegradable. We are also working with current customers of NTA to find suitable replacement products.

For additional information or to obtain an MSDS on a specific product, please contact us at NAM@Dissolvine.com

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