Paint and Varnish Strippers
Graffiti, Stain, Spill, and All-Purpose Removers Safer Alternatives Sold by Major U.S. Retailers

Below is a list of paint and varnish strippers and removers sold by major U.S. retailers (or directly from manufacturers) that do not contain methylene chloride or N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP). This list was compiled to show the wide array of safer paint strippers and removers that are available to consumers from various retailers (or the manufacturer). The list was compiled by Toxic-Free Future, and also draws on research by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute.

Below, we provide the name and image of each product, a short description of its function, one or more links where the product can be purchased online, and the ingredients as well as any specific designation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicating that an ingredient is a safer alternative. For more details, refer to our Methodology at the end of this document.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Improper removal of lead-based paint creates hazards that are dangerous to both workers and those in the home or work area, especially children. Lead dust created from paint removal travels easily and is hard to adequately clean. Unless proven to be lead-free, all paint from prior to 1978 should be assumed to be leaded. All work done for hire in pre-1978 homes, including that done by landlords, must be done by contractors certified to work safely in accordance with EPA’s Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule. If you are doing work in your own home, you should still learn how to do the work safely and take precautions to protect yourself and others. Some chemical strippers may increase the risk of lead absorption through the worker’s skin and appropriate gloves should always be worn.

For more information, see:
https://www.epa.gov/lead/lead-renovation-repair-and-painting-program

This list is provided for informational purposes only; Toxic-Free Future does not endorse any of these products.
PAINT AND VARNISH STRIPPERS

3M™ Safest Stripper Paint and Varnish Remover


According to the 2015 SDS on 3M’s website (via https://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/company-us/SDS-search/), https://bit.ly/2GxL2Oh (also on Ace Hardware's website, https://ace.infotrac.net/getmsds.aspx?sku=17657), the product contains the following ingredients in these percentages by weight:

✓ 65-75% Water
✓ 20-30% Dimethyl adipate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
✓ 1-5% Dimethyl glutarate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
✓ 1-5% Smectite (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)

This factsheet was last updated in 2019.
Back to Nature Hi-Speed Ready-Strip Citrus Paint & Varnish Remover (Sunnyside)

According to the Product Overview on The Home Depot’s website, “Efficiently removes most varieties of household paints including oil and water based paints, varnishes, latex, stains, enamels, lacquers, and polyurethanes...Works on most surfaces including wood, plaster, metal, masonry, concrete and fiberglass.”


According to the MSDS, https://www.sunnysidecorp.com/pdfs/MSDS_68532.pdf, available from here (https://www.sunnysidecorp.com/product.php?p=r&b=b&n=68532), the product contains the following hazardous components in these concentrations:

- ✓ 25-35% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
- ✓ 6-10% Dimethyl glutarate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 2-6% Dimethyl adipate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 1-5% Dimethyl succinate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 1-2% Propylene glycol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 1-3% Formic acid (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 1-3% D-Limonene
Citristrip® Paint & Varnish Stripping Gel – Non-NMP (WM Barr)

According to the label as depicted on Citristrip's website (http://www.citristrip.com/product/paint-varnish-stripping-gel-non-nmp), “…contains no methylene chloride or NMP (N-Methylpyrrolidone) and is safe for indoor use. … Use CITRISTRIP® to remove multiple layers of dried latex and oil-based paint, varnish, lacquer, polyurethane and shellac from wood, metal and masonry surfaces.”

Sold at https://www.homedepot.com/p/Citristrip-1-qt-Safer-Paint-and-Varnish-Stripping-Gel-Non-NMP-QCSG801/307416109 (despite the label depicted on this webpage, “Non-NMP” is in the product’s title and indicated in the Product Overview)


✓ 30-60% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
✓ 5-10% Diethylene glycol monobutyl ether (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues; is designated as a Hazardous Air Pollutant under the Clean Air Act)
✓ 3-7% 2-(2-Aminoethoxy) ethanol
✓ 1-5% Hydrotreated light distillate (petroleum, mineral spirits)
✓ 0.1-1% Alcohol ethoxylate (Alcohols, C9-11, Ethoxylated)* (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
✓ 0.1-1% Terpinolene*1 (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues; is a known sensitizer)
✓ 0.1-1% D-Limonene

† An asterisk is intended to highlight the fact that an ingredient is rated and scored as LT-P1 through Clean Production Action’s GreenScreen tool (see the Methodology section for more details on GreenScreen). An LT-P1 designation means the chemical meets one or more criteria for BM-1, but the information is based on screening lists and/or there is some data uncertainty. Further research is needed to determine if the chemical is indeed a BM-1, BM-2, or BM-3.

This factsheet was last updated in 2019.
Crown® STRP SURE™ Paint Stripper Gel (Packaging Service Co., Inc.)

According to the Product Information on Lowe's website, “Semi-paste paint remover that begins stripping paint in 2 hours.”

Sold at https://www.lowes.com/pd/Crown-STRP-Sure-Gel-1-qt/1000548439 (availability may be limited)

According to the 2018 SDS available from searching “STRP SURE” in the database at the link on the Packaging Service Co. website here, http://www.packserv.com/products/, the product contains the following ingredient in this percentage by weight:
✓ <50% Dimethyl sulfoxide

DS Super Remover New Generation

According to the product description on the manufacturer's website (https://www.superremover.com/en_US/products/multilayer-stripper-new-generation/), “Super Remover NEW GENERATION is a new revolutionnary product without methylene chloride[,] NMP[,] or any other highly toxic chemicals. This new formula is safer than methylene chloride based products and is the strongest in its product category. Super Remover NEW GENERATION is an industrial grade paint remover. It is perfect for all stripping jobs. It can remove up to 5 layers of paint in one application.”


According to the SDS on the manufacturer's website, https://www.superremover.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SuperRemover_New-Generation_USA_SDS_EN_Nov-2018-1.pdf, the product contains the following ingredients in these concentrations:
✓ 45-70% Methyl acetate
✓ 5-40% 1,3-Dioxolane
✓ 5-40% Dimethyl sulfoxide

This factsheet was last updated in 2019.
Dumond Smart Strip™ Advanced Paint Remover

According to the description on the manufacturer's website (https://www.dumondchemicals.com/home-peel-away-smart-strip.html), “...Formulated without methylene chloride or caustic, this water-based remover has no odor and is non-flammable ... Removes multiple layers of architectural, industrial and most lead-based paints from any interior or exterior surface in a single application.”

Sold at https://www.lowes.com/pd/Dumond-Smart-Strip/1000615057 (availability may be limited) (and with a slightly different image through https://www.walmart.com/ip/Smart-Strip-Advanced-Paint-Remover-1-Gallon/44120195)

According to the 2018 SDS, https://www.dumondchemicals.com/pdf/MSDS/Smart_Strip.pdf, the product contains the following ingredients in these concentrations:

✓ 40-60% Water
✓ 30-50% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
✓ 1-5% Kaolin (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Half-Circle – Expected to Be Low Concern; Additional Data Needed)
EcoFast™ 100 HD Heavy Duty Liquid Paint Stripper

According to the description on the manufacturer’s website, “a powerful non-hazardous, non-flammable, biodegradable, paint stripper that can also be used for removing tough grime, stains, permanent markers, paints, and adhesives. It is also ideal for cleaning paint guns, paint equipment, and items typically cleaned in dip tank solvents, but without the hazardous fumes or odor.”

Sold at https://www.ecosafetyproducts.com/paint-remover-p/ef-100-1.htm

According to the 2019 SDS, https://www.ecosafetyproducts.com/v/vspfiles/assets/images/SDS/SDS_EcoFast.100HD.101419.pdf, available from here (https://www.ecosafetyproducts.com/paint-remover-p/ef-100-1.htm), the product is labeled as “Non-Hazardous Material,” and contains the following ingredients:

- 30-50% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
**EZ Strip™ Paint & Varnish Stripper (Canada and Mexico only)**

According to the description on the EZ Strip website (https://www.ezstrip.ca/shop/paint-varnish-stripper/),

Removes “interior and exterior paints and varnishes from various surfaces. Safely remove paints and varnishes without damage to the surface being stripped. EZ Strip products are water based, skin safe, and fume free.”


- ✓ 10-30% Dimethyl glutarate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 3-7% Dimethyl succinate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 3-7% Triethyl phosphate
- ✓ 1-5% Dimethyl adipate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
Klean Strip® Green® Paint & Varnish Stripper

According to the description on the manufacturer’s website (http://www.kleanstrip.com/product/klean-strip-green-paint-varnish-stripper),
“…contains no Methylene Chloride or N-Methylpyrrolidone ... Use to strip multiple layers of latex paint, oil-based paint, varnish, lacquer, wax and stain from wood, metal and masonry surfaces.”


According to the 2018 SDS available from the manufacturer, https://bit.ly/2XyNgCT, the product contains the following “hazardous components” in these percentages by weight:
✓ 15-40% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
✓ 0.1-1% Potassium Hydroxide* (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)

MAX Strip® Paint & Varnish Stripper (US only)

According to the manufacturer’s website, https://maxstrip.com/shop/max-strip-paint-varnish-stripper/,
“Tackle tough jobs from paint drips and spills, to tree sap, grime and grease, to all kinds of graffiti, stickers, and glues. MAX Strip products are water based, skin safe, and fume free.”


✓ 3-7% Triethyl phosphate

This factsheet was last updated in 2019.
Motsenbocker’s LIFT OFF® Paint and Varnish Remover

According to “About This Item” on Walmart.com, “Fast & easy removal of solvent & water based paints, varnishes, wood stains, lacquers, polyurethane, epoxy & shellac from cabinetry, flooring, furniture, wood, metal, stone & masonry surfaces…”


According to the 2016 SDS, https://www.homedepot.com/catalog/pdfImages/6d/6de40398-3851-43fb-b9f4-db4f0f7ca53a.pdf, the product contains the following ingredients at the percentages listed:

✓ 1-20% Glycol ether (a.k.a. Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether)
✓ 1-20% Acetone (a.k.a. 2-Propanone) (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)

NPS Rx Natural Paint Stripper

According to the Product Overview on The Home Depot’s website, “...an environmentally friendly, biodegradable, low odor paint stripper designed to remove multiple layers of various types of coatings.”

Sold at https://www.homedepot.com/p/NPS-Rx-1-qt-Natural-Paint-Stripper-20004/205788029

According to the 2014 SDS, https://images.homedepot-static.com/catalog/pdfImages/aa/aa1078f8-189c-402f-bd29-f075a45b2905.pdf, the product contains the following ingredients in these percentages by weight:

✓ 40-70% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
✓ 15-40% D-Limonene

This factsheet was last updated in 2019.
Rust-Oleum Paint Stripper for Concrete

According to the Product Overview on The Home Depot’s website, “...removes layers of paint, stain, sealers and epoxy coatings. Effectively removes coatings on both interior and exterior surfaces.”

Sold at https://www.homedepot.com/p/Rust-Oleum-1-gal-Paint-Stripper-for-Concrete-310984/300274229


- ✓ 25-50% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
- ✓ 2.5-10% Formic acid (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 1-2.5 % Hydrotreated light distillate
GRAFFITI, STAIN, SPILL, AND ALL-PURPOSE REMOVERS

EZ Strip™ All Purpose Remover (Canada and Mexico only)

According to the description on the EZ Strip website (https://www.ezstrip.ca/shop/all-purpose-remover/),
“Tackle tough jobs from paint drips and spills, to tree sap, grime and grease, to all kinds of graffiti, stickers, and glues.”


✓ 10-30% Dimethyl glutarate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
✓ 3-7% Dimethyl succinate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
✓ 3-7% Triethyl phosphate
✓ 1-5% Dimethyl adipate (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
Goo Gone Latex Paint Clean Up

According to the Goo Gone website (https://googone.com/products/latex-paint-clean/), “…conveniently clings to vertical surfaces, making it easy to clean spills, splatter, brushes, and more … Works on wet and dried latex/acrylic/enamel paint, art/craft paint, varnish, shellac, caulk”


According to the 2016 SDS for “Goo Gone Latex Paint Clean-Up” in the “PAINT” category at http://googone.com/sds/, the product contains the following ingredients in percentages by weight:

✓ 7-13% Acetone (a.k.a. 2-Propanone) (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
✓ 1-5% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
Goof Off® Household Heavy Duty Remover


According to the 2019 SDS for “Heavy Duty Remover 22 oz.” at https://goofoffproducts.com/product/heavy-duty-remover-22-oz-trigger-spray/, the product contains the following “hazardous components” in these concentrations:

✓ 3-7% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
✓ 1-5% Oleic acid potassium salt*
✓ 1-5% Diethylene glycol monobutyl ether (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues; is designated as a Hazardous Air Pollutant under the Clean Air Act)
✓ 0.5-1.5% Propylene glycol phenyl ether (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
**Krud Kutter® Graffiti Remover (Rust-Oleum)**

According to “About This Item” on Walmart.com, “Graffiti remover is perfect for removing acrylic, enamel, primer, sealers, stain killers, aerosol paint, oil lacquers and more.”


- ✓ 10-25% Benzyl alcohol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
- ✓ 10-25% Ethoxylated alcohols (CASRN not provided)
- ✓ 2.5-10% Dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 2.5-10% Alcohols, C10-16, ethoxylated, sulfates, sodium salts* (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ 0.1-1% Ethanol (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
- ✓ <0.1% C10-16 Ethoxylated Alcohols (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
Krud Kutter® Tough Task Citrus Remover (Rust-Oleum)

According to the Product Overview on the manufacturer's website (https://www.rustoleum.com/product-catalog/consumer-brands/krud-kutter/cleaners-and-stain-removers/tough-task-citrus-remover), “...removes tough, oily, greasy, grimy, gooey problems ... For extremely tough jobs, such as removal of old, dried latex paint, scrub with a brush or scouring pad and wash off with a wet rag.”


✓ 1-2.5% Poly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), .alpha.-(2-propylheptyl)-.omega.-hydroxy- (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
✓ 0.1-1% D-Limonene

This factsheet was last updated in 2019.
Krud Kutter® Tough Task Remover (Rust-Oleum)

According to the Product Overview on The Home Depot’s website, “...a multi-purpose cleaner designed to remove tough stains and other stubborn substances from surfaces...Also works to remove dried latex paint, oil based paint splatters, caulk and wallpaper adhesive.”


✓ 1-2.5% Fatty alcohol ethoxylate (CASRN not provided)
✓ 1-2.5% Sodium metasilicate* (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
MAX Strip® All Purpose Remover (US only)

According to the product description on the MAX Strip website (https://maxstrip.com/shop/max-strip-all-purpose-remover/), “Tackle tough jobs from paint drips and spills, to tree sap, grime and grease, to all kinds of graffiti, stickers, and glues. MAX Strip products are water based, skin safe, and fume free.”


According to the 2019 SDS, https://maxstrip.com/wp-content/uploads/Max-Strip-All-Purpose-Remover.pdf, available from here (https://maxstrip.com/msds-sheets/), the product contains the following ingredients in these percentages:

✓ 3-7% Triethyl phosphate
Motsenbocker’s LIFT OFF® Latex Paint Remover (Stoner Inc.)

According to “About This Item” on Walmart.com, “Biodegradable water-based latex paint remover. Designed to work safely on all types of hard surfaces including glass, lexan, linoleum, plexiglass, tile, and formica.”

Sold through https://www.walmart.com/ip/Stoner-22oz-Latex-Paint-Remover-413-01/37953856

According to the 2016 SDS (for the product code 41301), https://www.homedepot.com/catalog/pdfimages/f5/f582c41b-881b-4513-98fd-6768a2b9a207.pdf, the product contains the following ingredients at the percentages listed:

- ✓ 1-20% Glycol ether (a.k.a. Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether)
- ✓ 1-20% Acetone (a.k.a. 2-Propanone) (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
- ✓ 1-20% Organic salt (CASRN not provided)

This factsheet was last updated in 2019.
Motsenbocker’s LIFT OFF® Spray Paint and Graffiti Remover (Stoner Inc.)

According to the Product description on Amazon.com, “... fast and easy removal of spray paint, aerosol paint, semi gloss, high gloss, acrylic, enamel, and oil lacquer from vehicles, street signs, buildings, walls, floors, fiberglass, metal, tile, vinyl, plastic, brick, and concrete.”


According to the 2016 SDS (for the product code 41101), https://images.homedepot-static.com/catalog/pdfImages/21/215350ec-46a5-4969-9202-ddf45e7bf7ce.pdf, the product contains the following ingredients at the percentages listed:
- ✓ 1-20% Glycol ether (a.k.a. Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether)
- ✓ 1-20% Acetone (a.k.a. 2-Propanone) (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Yellow Triangle - best available in class but some hazard profile issues)
RainguardPro® VandlClean™ Super Graffiti Cleaner

According to the description on Rainguard Pro’s website (https://rainguardpro.com/product/vandlclean-super/#techdocs),

“... Biodegradable graffiti remover designed to dissolve spray paint, marker, pen or pencil ink ... Can be used to remove graffiti from brick, cement, wood and other porous surfaces”


No ingredients are disclosed in the 2019 SDS, https://rainguardpro.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/05/SDS-VandlClean-Super-1.pdf. The SDS states: “This material is considered non-hazardous by the OSHA Hazard Communication” and “THIS PRODUCT DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY SUBSTANCES KNOWN TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO CAUSE CANCER OR REPRODUCTIVE HARM.”
Wolman™ DeckStrip®: Stain & Finish Remover (Rust-Oleum)

“...quickly removes all coatings, including oil- and water-based or alkyd/acrylic-blend stains, finishes, toners and sealers.”


✓ 2.5-10% Sodium hydroxide (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
✓ 0.1-1% of Sodium dodecyl diphenyl ether disulfonate*

This factsheet was last updated in 2019.
Wolman™ DeckStrip®-ASR: Acrylic Stain Remover (Rust-Oleum)

According to the Technical Data Sheet on the manufacturer’s website (https://www.rustoleum.com/~~/media/DigitalEncyclopedia/Documents/RustoleumUSA/TDS/English/CBG/Wolman/WOL-07_DeckStrip_ASR_Acrylic_Stain_Remover_TDS.ashx), “…will cut through and remove relatively new or weathered acrylic/latex solid and semi-solid stains, including those labeled 100% acrylic … tough-to-remove acrylics are quickly dissolved and easily rinsed away with a pressure-washer – no scraping or sanding required …”


✓ 10-25% Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether
✓ 2.5-10% Sodium hydroxide (US EPA Safer Chemical Ingredients List: Green Circle - Verified Low Concern)
✓ 0.1-1% Sodium dodecyl diphenyl ether disulfonate*

This factsheet was last updated in 2019.
Methodology. To find examples of paint stripping (or removal) products that don't contain methylene chloride or NMP, Toxic-Free Future staff searched on various websites for the terms "paint stripper," "paint remover," and "paint and stripper." We then reviewed the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) or Safety Data Sheets (SDS) (standard forms prepared by the manufacturer as required by OSHA) for each product that was identifiable as or likely to be a paint stripper or remover to determine which ones contained alternate chemicals. Staff at the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at the University of Massachusetts Lowell also provided a list of safer paint strippers that we used in updating this list for 2019.

Where the SDS or MSDS showed a Chemical Abstract Service Registry Number (CASRN) for an ingredient, we provided in parentheses the placement on the US EPA's Safer Chemical Ingredients List (SCIL) where it was available. We did not include products with ingredients that were rated by Clean Production Action's GreenScreen® assessment criteria and received scores of GreenScreen Benchmark-1 (Avoid – Chemical of High Concern) or GreenScreen List Translator-1 (meets one or more criteria for BM-1 and is most likely to receive that score after a full GreenScreen assessment).

We did include products with ingredients that were rated and scored as LT-P1 (meets one or more criteria for BM-1, but the information is based on screening lists and/or there is some data uncertainty; further research is needed to determine if the chemical is indeed a BM-1, BM-2, or BM-3). These ingredients are flagged with an asterisk.

2 EPA's SCIL is here: https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/safer-ingredients. For more information about the GreenScreen® Method, see https://www.greenscreenchemicals.org/learn/full-greenscreen-method and https://www.greenscreenchemicals.org/learn/greenscreen-list-translator. We reviewed the scores provided in this report: https://www.bizngo.org/resources/entry/resource-methylene and in this database: https://commons.healthymaterials.net/home (registration is free).