

Glycol ethers and acetates

Uses and Sources

The compounds in this classification that were reviewed are 2-methoxy ethanol (methyl cellosolve), 2-methoxyethyl acetate (methyl cellosolve acetate), 2-ethoxy ethanol (cellosolve), 2-ethoxy ethyl acetate (cellosolve acetate) and 2-butoxy ethanol (butyl cellosolve).

These glycol ethers and their acetate derivatives are widely used as solvents in the manufacture of paints, lacquers, enamels, varnishes, stains, metal coatings and epoxy resin coatings. More than half of their production is consumed by these applications. They are also used as solvents for printing inks, leather finishes, textile dyes and pigments (Piacitelli *et al.*, 1990). The HSDB (1990) reports their use in adhesives, nail polishes, perfumes, liquid soaps, cosmetics, dry cleaning compounds, varnish removers and liquid household products.

Table 4.19. Consumer product categories in CTCP database that emitted glycol ethers and acetates.

Product Category	Number of Products				
	2-Butoxy ethanol	2-Ethoxy ethanol	2-Ethoxy ethyl acetate	2-Methoxy ethanol	2-Methoxy ethyl acetate
Cleaning compounds ^a	35	4	—	—	—
Spot/Stain removers	4	1	—	—	—
Dry cleaning fluids	—	—	—	—	—
Window/glass cleaners	3	2	—	—	—
Rug/upholstery cleaners	6	3	—	—	—
Coatings/Inks ^b	2	10	4	1	—
Coating thinners/stripers	8	6	1	2	—
Caulks and grouts	—	—	—	—	—
Polishes and Waxes ^c	—	—	—	—	—
Insect sprays ^d	7	—	—	—	—
Moth control products	—	—	—	—	—
Herbicides and Fungicides ^d	—	1	—	—	—
Wood preservatives	—	—	—	—	—
Medical/Personal hygiene	2	1	—	—	—
Room deodorants/disinfectants	—	—	—	—	—
Lubricants/Penetrants	—	—	—	—	—
Adhesives	1	—	—	—	—
Liquid paper	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous products	5	—	5	—	—
Engine degreasers	3	—	—	—	—
Carburetor and choke cleaners	3	—	—	—	—
Car waxes and polishes	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous automotive ^e	5	—	—	—	—

^aIncludes general purpose cleaners as well as drain, oven, tile and bathroom cleaners and other degreasers.

^bIncludes paints, varnishes, sealants and other coatings. Inks include marking pens and similar items.

^cIncludes wood, metal and shoe-care products.

^dNot all items in this category may be available to consumers. Products that were obviously industrial in nature were not counted.

^eIncludes fuel and oil additives, cleaners products, tire-repair products and gasket removers.