

STATEMENT FOR SILVER SPARKLE

Silver Sparkle is and always has been a safe product when used as directed. We have been making and selling this product for decades to the same chemical formulation and in that time it has continued to be used by consumers in homes & businesses without any health or safety incidents.

Under EU legislation, the product has always carried a hazard warning on the packaging. Under the previous European Dangerous Preparations Directive (DPD) (1999/45/EC), Silver Sparkle was classified as R40 which was worded 'limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect' and was accompanied by the orange & black square hazard symbol on the product.

Recently we have seen the introduction of CLP (European Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures) which has directly replace the DPD system and became compulsory on 1st June 2015. The new CLP classifications for some hazard categories have changed in the way they are worded and in the case of our current Silver Sparkle formulation, R40 has been replaced by the CLP H351 statement which now says 'suspected of causing cancer', and is accompanied by a red diamond symbol on the packaging. Silver Sparkle itself has not changed, only the classifications due to the new legislation.

The reason Silver Sparkle carries this warning is related specifically to one ingredient – Thiourea. Thiourea is a chemical that has been used to clean and remove silver tarnish for well over a hundred years. A small amount is present within the mixture and is the only ingredient that is capable of effectively removing silver tarnish in seconds and so without it this product (and anyone else's version) just wouldn't work.

We believe that, in view of the many years of safe usage that the regulatory restrictions for Thiourea are overly harsh. Thiourea is classified as a Category 2 carcinogen under CLP, this effect has been shown in animals but not ever in humans. The classification of Thiourea is mainly based on animal studies where Thiourea was ingested daily for prolonged periods.*

We are aware that the legislative changes in wording to the hazard information have caused some concerns. For those customers with concern, we do offer alternative products for cleaning Silver including Silver Polish, Silver Polishing cloths or the new Silver Cleaning kit which combines both. They do not contain Thiourea and are not classified as hazardous under CLP.

We also have a new mild strength Silver Sparkle Jewellery Dip which still effectively removes silver tarnish with only a slightly increased amount of time required in the solution. This product contains a lower level of Thiourea but does not require or have the 'suspected of causing cancer' warning.

Should you have any further questions then please get in touch.

Laura Coward. MChem. (Hons)
Resident Town Talk Chemist

*Details of the classification of Thiourea and the testing of Thiourea are available here:

<http://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals/cl-inventory-database/-/cl-inventory/view-notification-summary/33620>

http://apps.echa.europa.eu/registered/data/dossiers/DISS-dffb4072-e396-47ae-e044-00144f67d031/DISS-dffb4072-e396-47ae-e044-00144f67d031_DISS-dffb4072-e396-47ae-e044-00144f67d031.html