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Fountain Solutions and Water Additives

Lithography is and always has been one of the most common forms of printing and one of the most vital areas to maximise quality relies on appropriate control of the ink-water balance. In the old day fountain solutions were often very basic mixtures of gum Arabic, acid and water which printers mixed on press themselves. Today fountain solutions have become so sophisticated that they play a vital role in controlling ink-water balance and hence print results. At Printchem we offer fountain solutions for all requirements, including heatset and coldset web offset, sheetfed, conventional and UV inks, small offset, ready to use and dosed. These all contain anti microbial additives, calcium sequestrants, powerful wetting agents and anti piling additives that help lubricate the printed product whilst at the same time reducing alcohol consumption, lowering VOC's in the pressroom and making it a safer environment to work in, whilst also reducing costs of buying alcohol and paying for reproductions due to waste. They are also all corrosion inhibited to manufacturer standards meaning you can be assured they won't attack press equipment. Listed here are examples of our most popular products, however, should you not find what you need we are always able to offer new developments to meet any requirement.

Fountain Solutions

For all press types. For this range working in harder water (>10dH), areas normally requires dosing at the higher end, whereas, softer waters (<5dH), dose at the lower end for typical best results. However, every application is different and why we therefore recommend to test and experiment with any new product to find the best result for each case.

Code	Description	Dosage	VOC content	Alcohol Reduced 3-8%	Alcohol Free 0-4%	FOGRA approved	Area of use
PC600	Chemsol	1-4%	<5%	No	No	No	Sheetfed and web offset used with conventional inks typically and 5-12% alcohol. Very suited to hard water areas.
PC601	Premium Fount	1-4%	<10%	Yes	No	No	Sheetfed and web offset for all types of dampening systems. Gum Arabic containing, and supplied in low ph 2.5-3.5 typically.
PC602	Premier Fount	0.3-1%	<1%	Yes	No	No	Sheetfed and web offset. Low ph fount (2-3) and suitable for printing metallic inks due to drying aids incorporated.
PC603	UV Fount	2-4%	<5%	Yes	No	No	Sheetfed for use on UV and Hybrid inks, but can also be used on conventional when required.
PC605	Chemsol Ex	1-4%	<5%	Yes	Yes	No	Sheetfed and web offset for all kinds of dampening systems. Gum Arabic free with improved wetting over PC600.
PC630	Printchem Deluxe AF	2-4%	<1%	Yes	Yes	No	VOC free Heatset and coldset wash for automatic systems.
PC606	Alcohol Free Fount	3-5%	<50%	Yes	Yes	No	Highly concentrated alcohol free fount solution – typical low ph version, for sheetfed and web offset fount dosing systems.
PC610	PC Green Fount	2-4%	<1%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Heatset web Offset for high speed magazine printing etc.
PC611	PC Yellow Fount	2-4%	<1%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Coldset web offset for applications such as Newspaper production.
PC612	PC Blue Fount	2-4%	<1%	Yes	No	Yes	Sheetfed and web offset.
PC625	Chemfix Fount	2-4%	<1%	No	No	No	Sheetfed and web offset with conventional inks and alcohol dosing systems.

Water Additives

Below are listed some examples of additives used in dampening systems, to help control the printing environment to ultimately give best results. This is not an extensive list and we aim to offer products for all enquiries so if you have any particular requirements please contact our technical team.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Details</u>
PC721	Water Hardener	Water hardener for RO water to replace electrolytes lost in the purification of water. 0.5% gives ideal printing hardness of 8dH.
PC309	Fount System Cleaner	Highly powerful and effective cleaning solution to be dosed and flushed through the dampening system to help clean out bacteria, algae etc. A vital ingredient to help maintain a sterile dampening system.
PC301	Calcium Removal solution	Water soluble acidic solution designed to act on and inhibit calcium in the dampening system. Can also be added to the wash cycle to help clean calcium deposits from blankets and rollers. A particularly useful additive for printers situated in high water hardness areas. Can be added to the dampening water during a print run.
PC722	Biocide	A concentrated anti microbial additive for dosing into the dampening system to help remove bacteria and algae from the system resulting in a cleaner more sterile printing environment – can be added to the dampening water during print runs where required.
PC723	Fount System Driers	A specialist additive for dosing into the fount solution to help speed up ink oxidation which in turn can help reduce set-off and rub issues with printed matter.
PC724	Anti Piling Additive	Add into the fount solution to help reduce issues associated with piling as well as increasing the wetting capabilities of the solution.
PC315	PC Antifoam Additive	Defoaming agent for fountain solutions that instantly kills aeration and produces a flatter film eliminating air bubbles which can lead to imperfect wetting of the surface.

Further technical information such as shelf life, storage, handling etc can be found on our Technical data sheets.

For further information regarding this or other product ranges please contact the team at Printchem: info@printchem.co.uk