

Comparisons of products for crosscut sawing solvent / lubrication

DBC 9/2011

I did some research on 4 products I have used as saw lubricant. All work fairly well, though diesel and WD-40 seemed to work well in smaller amounts and leave a film of water-displacing oil on the saw. None of the 4 products is corrosive to metal.

Price and availability

Goo Gone Pro-Power (from the Homax Group, Inc.) is available from Ace Hardware and other places at cost of \$8.00/ Qt. in a screw cap bottle. (That's 8 times the cost of diesel !)

De-Solve It (an Orange-Sol product) is available from Ace Hardware and others at \$12.00 / 12.6 Oz. in a spray bottle that leaks. (That's 30 times the cost of diesel!)

WD-40 is widely available at ~\$7.00 for 12 Oz. in an aerosol can

Diesel Fuel is widely available at <\$4.00/ gallon (for non-highway use.)

Health and Safety

Goo Gone's packaging claims it to be 'safe,' 'no industrial solvents,' and 'no harsh odors.' These descriptive statements don't have legal definitions. The label also says 'harmful or fatal if swallowed.' The MSDS indicates that it will cause eye irritation, may cause skin irritation and can cause convulsions and loss of consciousness if inhaled or ingested. The MSDS section 12: ecotoxicity, says that the components are 'not expected to be harmful to aquatic organisms.'

De-Solve It's packaging claims to be 'environmentally friendly,' 'organic' and 'Mom approved.' These statements don't have legal definitions. The label also says 'harmful or fatal if *liquid is aspirated into the lungs.*' The MSDS says that it may cause eye irritation or skin irritation and may cause diarrhea if ingested. The website says that it is used in neonatal hospitals to remove tape residue from babies' skin. The website also says that the company founder drank a glass of it at a meeting to prove it's safety. Wildlife rescue centers use it to clean oil and tar off of birds.

WD-40 doesn't make any health claims. The label warns that it contains petroleum distillates which may be harmful or fatal if inhaled or ingested. The label recommends thorough rinsing and washing for eye and skin contact. WD-40 is highly flammable when used as an aerosol.

Diesel Fuel doesn't make any health claims. The MSDS says it may cause mild irritation in the eyes, and skin irritation with prolonged or repeated contact. Aspiration of liquid droplets may cause fatal chemical pneumonia and ingestion may cause mild disturbance or convulsions, coma and death. It should not be allowed to spill into waterways or wetlands.

Ingredients

Goo Gone contains up to 95% petroleum distillates, 10% tripropylene glycol methyl ether and some citrus extracts. It smells like oranges.

De-Solve It's components are proprietary. The label says it contains vitamin E, Aloe Vera, and citrus oils.

WD-40 has a secret formula, but the website indicates that it is at least 50% petroleum distillates.

Diesel Fuel is diesel fuel and it does not smell like oranges.

Summary

Diesel fuel is cheap and very effective as a saw lubricant. Used from a labeled squirt (not spray) bottle, it poses very little health risk. The bad smell should encourage you to limit use. It should not be used in wetlands or waterways. De-solve it is expensive but harmless to the environment. If you decant it into a labeled squirt (not spray) bottle you will avoid any risk of ill health effects. Goo Gone is a petroleum distillate product that smells like oranges. It may not be as bad for the environment as diesel. WD-40 is convenient when applied from its aerosol can, but also very flammable, and not very good to breathe.

Have fun choosing!