

Get Set Gazette

News for Get Set, Inc. Customers

August 2003 Issue



Intelligent Pest Management®

First of all, after many years, a lot of effort and over one hundred thousand dollars in expenses, Stephen L. Tvedten's patent application PCT/US98-01137 (basically on the use of enzymes and surfactants to control pest problems) entitled "Biological Pesticide Application No. 09/341,174 - filed 8/20/1999 - has been allowed with 77 claims by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Steve's patent is not for a specific enzyme surfactant formula, but on the process of using enzymes, surfactants and/or detergent builders to control pest problems.

Second, this means Safe Solutions, Inc. Lice R Gone® Enzyme Shampoo in 8 oz. family-size shampoo bottles and in the new ½ oz. single use packets is now the only lice and nit shampoo covered by both Steve's U.S.A. and Australian patents and Lice R Gone® is the only enzyme shampoo that is a FDA approved medical device on the market today. In addition to these exclusives, we believe that Lice R Gone® is the only enzyme shampoo with a known (and consistent) certificate of analysis; the only enzyme shampoo that has a normal pH; the only enzyme shampoo that has independent lab tests on dermal and ocular sensitivity, and because Safe Solutions, Inc. carefully blends its own totally stabilized, clean-looking enzyme formula, they know Safe Solutions, Inc. shampoo only contains 1% or less of a single protease enzyme. Because Lice R Gone® is so stabilized they can also add peppermint directly into the formula to help make their enzyme shampoo even more effective. Lice R Gone® only

needs ½ oz. of shampoo to safely and effectively remove both lice and nits in 5 - 10 minutes for under \$1.00 a treatment when purchased in an 8 oz. bottle!

Make sure that if you are using another enzyme lice shampoo to control lice and nits that your product is FDA approved and/or not in violation of Steve's new patent. Many enzyme shampoos do not and can not even give you an exact list of all their various surfactants, enzymes and other ingredients and exactly in which proportion they exist in the enzyme shampoo.

Note: On Monday morning, August 4, 2003, Steve asked his attorneys at Price, Heneveld to contact one of the suppliers of an enzyme cleaner (being used for pest control) for an exact list (and percentages) of ingredients in order to ascertain if their product was in violation of Steve's patent.

Third, we believe that only Safe Solutions' stabilized enzyme cleaner looks clean and smells like peppermint and has less than 1% protease enzyme.

Ed Harkness, a custodian at Greenville Public Schools, loves to clean lockers with Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner with Peppermint. Ed states it is the best enzyme product he has ever used. Ed cleans the lockers daily with his bare hands and has never had any skin irritation with Safe Solutions, Inc. stabilized enzyme cleaner with peppermint. Once again, corroborating Safe Solutions lab tests on dermal sensitivity.

Make sure that if you are using other enzyme cleaners to control pest problems, that your product is not in violation

of Steve's new patent and/or the law. (It is against the federal and state law to make any pesticidal claims about any product you own unless it is first registered or is 100% exempted by the EPA as a pesticide. Currently, we know of no enzyme product that is registered or 100% exempted by the EPA or the States to control pest problems. Now that Steve has an USA patent allowance, we will now proceed in registering our enzyme cleaner as a least-toxic and/or biological pesticide. **Note: Many enzyme cleaners do not and can not even give you an exact list of all of the various surfactants, enzymes and/or other ingredients and in what proportion they exist in the cleaner. Remember, at this time no enzyme cleaner is legally registered as a pesticide.**

Fourth, Gary Brezinski of West Ottawa was featured in an IPM article that we have attached.

Fifth, we have been working with some very interesting microbes that can safely control itch problems, odors, digest muck and control many pest problems. The microbes are so safe you can inhale them and/or eat them to help control and/or alleviate internal problems.

Sixth, we are continuing our research using food-grade DE to control pest problems.

Seventh, Ted Tyers of Muskegon Area Intermediate School District has been using a new machine Steve has been researching to safely and harmlessly control pest birds, wildlife and/or rodents using radio frequencies.

Eighth, Steve has been using a brand new termite bait and is very excited about its potential to

quickly and safely solve termite infestations, again without using any pesticides or even bait stations.

Ninth, Steve is also working with Martin Rustenberg at Sylvan Christian School to try to prevent the destruction of ash trees by the Emerald Ash Borer. **Steve does not want anyone to lose their ash.**

Tenth, The Best Control II® with literally thousands of safe and far more effective alternatives to dangerous synthetic pesticide poisons will be available on a CD-ROM in a few weeks.

Eleventh, Steve is currently testing a new disposable fly trap.

Twelfth, Steve has several 100% EPA exempted pest control products about to enter production.

Did you ever do a Google search on Stephen L. Tvedten? Steve thought it was quite interesting and showed how our IPM work is now becoming internationally known.

We promise we will continue to bring you more and more alternatives and/or innovations to protect you and your students and staff and the earth's environment.

Lastly, Steve has already started writing The Best Control III.

Interesting Web Sites:

<http://www.thebestcontrol.com>

<http://www.getipm.com>

<http://www.licergone.com>

<http://www.safesolutionsinc.com>

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Michigan

West Ottawa Public Schools

By Melissa Vachon, *LocalMotion*

Catalyst for Change

Gary Brezinski had been director of building services at West Ottawa Public Schools for five years when he began reading articles about how pesticides can affect learning in children. Mr. Brezinski, who manages 13 buildings that house 8,000 students and staff, felt that children have enough challenges without the added harmful effects of chemicals. So he began to look into "alternatives," generated support from the District, and had an IPM policy adopted. Michigan law already required that parents be notified each year by letter that they can request to be informed if pesticides are used in or around the schools. Mr. Brezinski receives a large response each year from parents asking to be put on the registry.

Implementation Strategies

Mr. Brezinski worked with a Michigan-based IPM company, Get Set, which provided the model IPM policy that was adopted, and launched an advertising campaign through area newspapers and the local cable channel to educate the community on pesticide hazards and IPM. Get Set's founder, Steve Tvedten, quickly identified the food source of the pests. Ten years later, boric acid is the most poisonous substance that has been used inside a West Ottawa school building since the switch to IPM. Mr. Brezinski and his staff inventory the buildings and eliminate opportunities for pests. To prevent problems, they employ door sweeps, find and block openings, caulk holes, and just "make things fit tighter." Enzymatic cleaners containing peppermint oil deter pests from commonly infested areas. Citronella beads in dumpsters keep stinging insects away. Mr. Brezinski's favorite tools are vacuums. A little baby powder in the vacuum bag kills pests once they are sucked in.

State law requires that anyone applying a pesticide in a school must be a licensed pest control operator trained in IPM. School staff are informed not to bring pesticide spray cans into the building and given information on IPM and practices that attract pests, such as cardboard stored in closets, food not properly contained, and crumbs and spills not properly cleaned.

Cost Benefits

The District paid \$8,000 to \$12,000 per year for regular visits from a pesticide applicator. Special situations, such



Photo by James Anderson

as relentless infestations of termites, ants, or mice could cost an extra \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year. Get Set charged the District an initial \$1,200 per building, or \$15,000 per year. Mr. Tvedten made regular site visits, attended to all pest problems, trained staff, and provided an IPM manual. Now Mr. Brezinski and his staff are familiar with IPM and implement the program themselves. The District now pays a \$2,000 consultant fee to Get Set each year. It spends \$2,000 to \$3,000 on products and less than \$1,000 on equipment annually. After a few years of transition to IPM, the District is now saving an estimated \$10,000 a year on pest control.

Keys to Success

Mr. Brezinski suggests having someone in charge whose decisions will be respected. In regards to toxic pesticides w/ he needs to be able to say, "No, we are not going to do this." The person in charge also needs to be "persistent and willing to take some heat."

Mr. Brezinski attributes his success to communication between all concerned parties (parents, students, staff, school board), the fact that IPM works and his own stubborn personality.

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