JETIR.ORG ISSN: 2349-5162 | ESTD Year : 2014 | Monthly Issue
JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)
An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Greening the Garage: Discovering a Safer Approach to Paint Removal for Automobile Plastics

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Abstract : The plastics used in automobile applications, such as bumpers and panels, pose significant challenges in disposal due to their complex compositions. Consequently, many automobile industries opt to recycle and reuse these plastic components instead of disposing of them. During the recycling process, plastic parts are heated to a specific temperature to melt and then reformed into desired shapes. However, if paint remains on the plastic surface during this process, the paint melts and mixes with the plastic, resulting in a composite material that is difficult to shape properly due to the paint content. Therefore, it is essential to remove the paint before recycling to ensure the purity of the recycled plastic. This research aims to identify a less hazardous paint remover solution using household products for effectively removing paint from automobile parts, thereby facilitating a more efficient recycling process.

Keywords: Automobile plastic paint removal, Enamel paint removal, Sustainable paint removal, less hazardous.

I. INTRODUCTION

The paint adhered to the surfaces of automobile parts poses significant challenges during the recycling process of plastic components. The presence of paint on these plastic parts complicates recycling efforts, leading to difficulties in reshaping and repurposing the material. Many industries face substantial challenges in finding effective methods to remove paint before recycling.

An effective paint removal process must be eco-friendly to ensure the safety of individuals using the remover over extended periods. Additionally, cost-effectiveness is crucial; the remover solution should be readily available in the market at a reasonable price. Therefore, the problem addressed in this research is the removal of unwanted paint from the surface of automobile plastic parts, which hinders efficient recycling. Although numerous chemical paint strippers are available in the market, they often pose significant health risks, including skin irritation, respiratory issues, and eye damage. This research aims to minimize, if not entirely eliminate, the use of hazardous chemicals by developing a paint remover solution based on natural or household products. This approach will make our solution eco-friendlier compared to existing chemical strippers. Our paint remover is designed to be safe for users, eliminating the need for protective gloves.

The purpose of this project is to create a safe, cost-effective, and eco-friendly paint remover solution that efficiently removes unwanted paint from the surfaces of automobile plastic parts. We anticipate a high demand for this solution in the automobile industry, as most current methods rely on harmful chemical strippers for paint removal.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

James Patel (2019) highlights household alternatives such as vinegar and citrus-based solvents as safer options. These natural products, though requiring more effort, minimize health hazards and environmental impact. Recent studies support the shift towards biodegradable solvents derived from renewable resources, offering effective and eco-friendly paint removal solutions.

Sarah Mitchell's (2020) study compares various natural and biodegradable solvents for paint removal efficacy and environmental impact. Mitchell's findings support the viability of eco-friendly alternatives, highlighting their effectiveness and sustainability.

Karen Lewis (2019) explores the use of household chemicals, including acetic acid, for paint removal. This study investigates the efficacy and safety of such alternatives. Results suggest promising outcomes for eco-friendly paint removal, emphasizing the potential of household products in industrial applications

Amanda Clark's (2020) study investigates the effectiveness of baking soda in paint removal. The research explores the efficacy of this household product and its potential applications in industrial settings.

David Brown's (2020) study examines the benefits and challenges of chemical-free paint removal methods. The research highlights the importance of reducing reliance on hazardous chemicals in industrial processes.

Deborah King's (2019) study explores the use of citrus-based solvents in paint removal. The research investigates the efficacy and environmental impact of these natural alternatives. King's findings suggest that citrus-based solvents offer a promising eco-friendly option for paint removal, with minimal health risks and environmental impact.

Paul Turner's (2018) study investigates household chemical use in paint removal processes. The research evaluates the effectiveness and safety of these common household products. Turner's findings suggest that household chemicals offer viable alternatives for paint removal, with minimal environmental impact.

III. Composition of Paint

Paint is used in the automotive industry for both decorative and protective purposes. Paint is especially important for protecting plastic components found in vehicles. Because of their strength and low weight, materials like polypropylene, polyurethane, ABS, nylon 6/6, polycarbonate, polyethylene, polyoxymethylene, and polyamides are preferred. The composition of automotive paint is intricate, consisting of multiple constituents, each with distinct roles. While binders, such as synthetic or natural resins like acrylic, polyurethane, polyesters, melamine resins, epoxy, or oils, assure pigment adhesion to plastic surfaces, pigments offer color and aesthetic appeal. Paint application is made easier by solvents, and performance and longevity are improved by additives.

Four separate layers are used in the automotive painting process: basecoat for color, clearcoat for gloss and weather resistance, primer or filler for surface smoothing and adhesion enhancement, and electrocoat (E-coat) for corrosion resistance. Plastic components are painted using a variety of paint types, such as acrylic lacquer, acrylic urethane, enamel paints, polyester-based paints, and urethane-based paints, selected according to functional needs and desired finish.In order to enhance performance and durability, binders are essential components of automotive paints. Strong adhesion is ensured by synthetic binders like acrylic, polyurethane, epoxy, and polysiloxane resins; natural binders like chalk, vegetable or animal glue, and oils offer substitutes. Commonly used acrylic polymers with improved protective and aesthetic qualities are methyl and butyl methacrylate-based monomers.

IV. Methodology

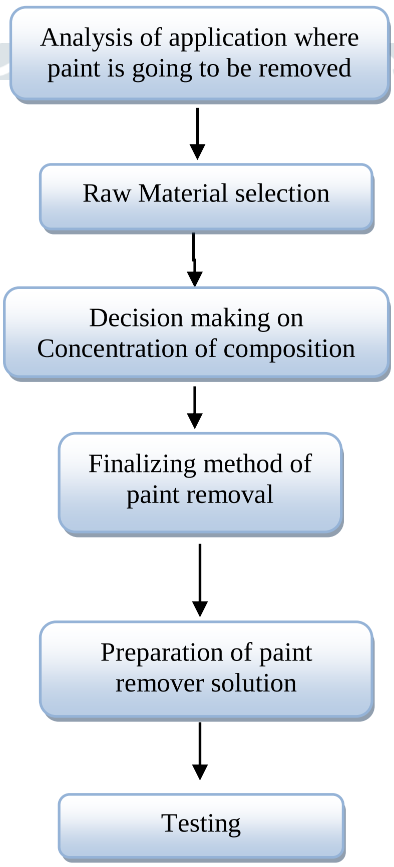


Figure1: Methodology Flowchart

The effectiveness and safety of the proposed solution are ensured through several essential steps in the methodology. First, the emphasis is on identifying the precise painted surfaces that need to be treated, with special attention paid to plastics that are frequently utilized in the automotive sector. Polypropylene, polyurethane, ABS, nylon 6/6, polycarbonate, polyethylene, polyoxymethylene, and polyamides are a few examples of these materials. To properly customize the paint remover solution, it is imperative to comprehend the types of plastics that are involved.

The next stage is to carefully choose raw materials that are safe for the environment and users to use while also being effective at removing paint. The selection of ingredients, which includes acetone, isopropyl alcohol, dichloromethane, caraway oil, pine oil, tamarind, vinegar, canola oil, spearmint, corn sugar, and washing soda, is the result of a thorough examination of household products. These substances were picked because they have a reputation for being effective cleaners and having less of an adverse effect on the environment than conventional chemical strippers.

The paint remover solution is made by mixing the ingredients in a certain ratio after they have been chosen. To create a homogenous solution, these materials are mixed in their liquid forms during the formulation process. Each component's concentration is carefully adjusted to maximize paint removal effectiveness and minimize any possible health risks. Submerging the painted plastic surfaces in the ready-made solution is the first step in the application process. In order to allow the solution to seep in and soften the paint layer, the immersion time is set to a minimum of 15 minutes. During this time, the paint's chemical bonds are interacting with the solution, which helps the paint come off the plastic surface. After the paint is submerged, a light scrub is done to help remove the softened paint physically. In order to successfully lift the paint without causing any damage to the underlying plastic, this step is essential.

V. COMPONENTS

We have carefully chosen less hazardous chemicals and easily accessible household items as ingredients for our paint remover solution. This method guarantees that the solution is economical and secure for both the environment and people. We have natural bleaching agents in our selection that are well-known for being effective at removing paint. By carefully classifying these ingredients into organic and inorganic substances, a well-balanced and efficient formulation is produced. The following are the selected elements.:

SN.	Organic Components
1.	Tamarind
2.	Lemon
3.	Vinegar
4.	Acetone
5.	Baking soda
6.	Washing soda
7.	Isopropyl alcohol
8.	Salt – sodium chloride Nacl
9.	Soy – Glycine max C35 H66 No7 p
10.	Pineapple – Ethyl butyrate C6H12O2

SN.	Inorganic Components
1.	Acetone – Ketone group C3H6O
2.	Isopropyl alcohol – Rubbing alcohol C3H8O
3.	White spirit – ethyl alcohol C2H5OH (Petroleum hydrocarbon), (comb of ethyl acetate and acetone)
4.	Dichloromethane – methylene chloride CH2 Ci2
5.	Turpentine – C10H16

These ingredients have been chosen for their capacity to combine harmoniously to produce a paint removal solution that is both efficient and environmentally friendly. Our solution guarantees sustainability and safety by utilizing easily accessible household items and reducing the use of dangerous chemicals, making it a sensible option for both personal and commercial use.

VI. CHEMICAL TEST

The purpose of the chemical tests was to assess the paint remover solution's safety and effectiveness. For varied amounts of time, painted plastic samples were immersed in the solution to enable the constituents to engage with the paint. The paint's chemical bonds were neutralized during this soaking time, which decreased the paint's adhesion to the plastic surface.

To determine how easily the paint could be removed, it was gently scrubbed after the soaking phase. The paint started to lift off the surface with little to no force, indicating the efficacy of the solution. The fundamental idea behind this technique is that the remover solution neutralizes the paint's pH level, rupturing the bonds between the layers of paint.

The solution was periodically heated to improve the paint removal process even further. The reactivity of the solution increased at higher temperatures, which further reduced the paint's adhesion to the plastic surface. This method worked well to speed up the paint removal process, demonstrating the solution's potential as a reliable and secure substitute for conventional chemical paint strippers

6.1 COMPOSITION 1:

- Ingredient 1: Baking soda 50ml
- Ingredient 2: Vinegar 100 ml
- Ingredient 3: Acetone 50ml
- Soaking time: 2hours

Result: The first solution consisted of 25% acetone combined with various household components. The immersion time was approximately 2 hours. This duration was relatively long, and the results varied. While the solution was effective in removing green paint, it showed limited effectiveness on red paint. No significant improvement was observed in the overall paint removal process.

6.2 COMPOSITION 2:

- Ingredient 1: Tamarind 50g
- Ingredient 2: Vinegar 50 ml
- Ingredient 3: Acetone 50ml
- Ingredient 4: Isopropyl alcohol 50ml
- Soaking time: 1 hour

Result: The second solution comprised 25% acetone, 25% isopropyl alcohol, and various natural substances. This composition demonstrated a faster reaction time, making the paint easy to wipe off. It was effective on both green and red paints, showing a significant improvement over the previous composition.

6.3 COMPOSITION 3:

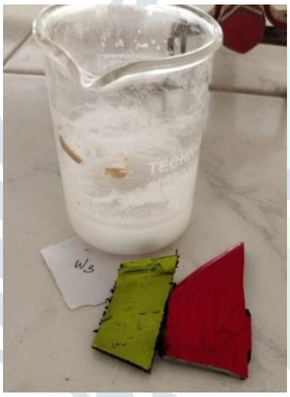
- Ingredient 1: Washing soda 50g
- Ingredient 2: Vinegar 100 ml
- Ingredient 3: Acetone 50ml
- Soaking time: 1 hour

Result: Easy The third solution reacted only with green paint, showing no reaction to red paint. It provided excellent results for green paint, with easy and complete removal. However, it was ineffective for red paint, demonstrating no significant reaction.

6.4 COMPOSITION 4:

- Ingredient 1: Washing soda 21.5 g
- Ingredient 2: Vinegar 13.75 ml
- Ingredient 3: Acetone 5 ml
- Soaking time: 15 mins

Result: In the fourth solution, the immersion time was drastically reduced compared to previous trials. The paint began reacting with the solution in a very short time, showing good results on both green and red paints. For red paint, there was noticeable bubble formation between the paint and the plastic, with the paint surface lifting within 15 minutes.



6.5 COMPOSITION 5:

- Ingredient 1: Washing soda 20.5 g/ 30ml (48%)
- Ingredient 2: Vinegar 25 ml (40%)
- Ingredient 3: Acetone 7.5 ml (12%)
- Soaking time: 15 mins

Result: Building on the previous solution's success, the same components were combined in increased proportions. This resulted in even better performance, effectively removing paint from both green and red surfaces. The improved formulation demonstrated enhanced efficiency and faster paint removal compared to the previous composition.

6.6 COMPOSITION 6:

- Ingredient 1: Tamarind 15 g
- Ingredient 2: Vinegar 30 ml
- Ingredient 3: Acetone 5 ml
- Ingredient 4: Isopropyl alcohol 2.5 ml
- Soaking time: 1 hr

Result: The sixth solution featured a different mixture with tamarind and vinegar as the main components. The immersed time period is quite long to notice visible reaction. It showed a good reaction with green paint, facilitating easy removal. However, it was not effective on red paint, exhibiting no significant changes.

6.7 COMPOSITION 7:

- Ingredient 1: Tamarind 17.5 ml
- Ingredient 2: Vinegar 28.75 ml
- Ingredient 3: Acetone 7.5 ml
- Ingredient 4: Isopropyl alcohol 2.5 ml
- Soaking time: 1 hr

Result: The seventh solution was similar to the previous one but with increased percentages of tamarind and vinegar. This adjustment did not result in any noticeable differences, yielding results almost identical to the previous composition. The solution remained effective for green paint but showed no improvement for red paint.

6.8 COMPOSITION 8:

- Ingredient 1: Washing soda 30 g
- Ingredient 2: Tamarind 30 g
- Ingredient 3: Vinegar 25 ml
- Ingredient 4: Baking soda 20g
- Soaking time: 1 hr

Result: The eighth solution showed no effect on either the red or green paints. Despite an extended immersion period, no noticeable changes were observed. The lack of reaction persisted over time, indicating ineffectiveness in removing paint from both surfaces.


6.9 COMPOSITION 9:

- Ingredient 1: Washing soda 100ml
- Ingredient 2: Tamarind 38ml
- Ingredient 3: Vinegar 90ml
- Ingredient 4: Baking soda 20ml
- Ingredient 5: Salt 20ml
- Ingredient 6: Lemon 30ml
- Ingredient 7: Acetone 30ml
- Ingredient 8: Isopropyl alcohol 20ml
- Chemical percentage 16.6 % and organic /Household materials 83.34%
- Soaking time: 1 hr

Result: The ninth solution comprised various components that had shown good results in previous solutions. However, the overall effectiveness of this solution was limited. While it successfully removed paint from green surfaces, no reaction was observed on red surfaces. Despite containing promising components, this composition did not deliver the expected results for both colors.

6.10 COMPOSITION 10

- Ingredient 1: Washing soda 56g + 100ml water
- Ingredient 2: Acetone 20ml
- Ingredient 3: Vinegar 40 ml
- Ingredient 4: Isopropyl alcohol 15ml
- Soaking time: 1 hr

Result: In the tenth solution, the paint removal effectiveness differed between the green and red surfaces. While it exhibited excellent results for green paint, with effective removal, the reaction on red paint was somewhat satisfactory. Some areas of the red paint remained unaffected, indicating incomplete removal. Additionally, the reaction period was longer compared to previous solutions, suggesting a slower overall performance.

6.11 COMPOSITION 11

- Ingredient 1: Tamarind 80ml
- Ingredient 2: Acetone 30ml
- Ingredient 3: Vinegar 40 ml
- Ingredient 4: Isopropyl alcohol 15ml
- Ingredient 5: Lemon 20ml
- Soaking time: 1 hr

Result: In the final solution, the paint removal performance differed between green and red surfaces. It exhibited excellent results for green paint, effectively removing it from the surface. However, there was no reaction observed on the red paint, rendering the solution ineffective for red surfaces.

VII. BUSINESS POINT OF VIEW

Our project's main goal is to create an efficient paint remover solution by carefully analyzing and combining three ingredients: vinegar, acetone, and washing soda. Our approach entails blending these easily obtainable and marketable components into a unified and effective product. These parts are straightforward, which makes the production process easy. We can cut production costs significantly by buying raw materials in bulk. Consequently, our paint remover solution's manufacturing cost is anticipated to be less than its prototyping cost, giving us a competitive edge in the market.

VIII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We have taken a methodical and comprehensive approach in our quest to create an organic/household paint remover solution with the least amount of potential for hazards. We started by delving into the complexity of paints and carefully studying substances that are supposed to dissolve paint. We thoroughly tested a wide range of combinations and formulations through a series of extensive experiments, meticulously recording our findings along the way. Following a thorough investigation and assessment, we have arrived at a noteworthy deduction: the ideal paint remover solution for car plastic components is a precisely measured mixture of acetone (12%), vinegar (40%), and washing soda (48%). In our tests, this precisely calibrated mixture performed like no other, efficiently removing paint layers without endangering public health or the environment.

In the process of determining this ideal blend, our investigation also turned up a number of additional intriguing blends, all of which demonstrated exceptional effectiveness in particular ratios. Through thorough documentation of our experiments and results, we have not only found the best paint remover solution but have also made significant contributions that will help shape this field's future research and innovation. Our commitment to creating safe, environmentally friendly solutions demonstrates our commitment to promoting eco-friendly procedures in the field of paint removal technology.

9.1 CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The application of a paint remover solution made of everyday objects has a number of drawbacks and difficulties. Finding a consistent formula that works well on various paint types and surfaces is one of the biggest challenges. The efficacy of the paint removal process can be impacted by the different chemical interactions that occur between natural ingredients and different paint compositions. Another logistical challenge is scaling up the solution for commercial use while preserving its safe and environmentally friendly qualities. To make sure it doesn’t harm the underlying materials—especially delicate plastics—the solution must also go through extensive testing. Another drawback is that longer soak times and maybe multiple applications are required to completely remove paint, which can make it unfeasible for larger projects or commercial use.

9.2 FUTURE SCOPE

There is a great deal of promise for a paint remover that can be used at home in the future. Research can be focused on formula optimization to increase consistency and efficiency and guarantee consistent performance on a variety of surfaces and paint types. Investigating novel natural ingredients may help to increase the efficacy and speed of the solution. Technological developments could lead to easier application techniques, like spray formulations or pre-soaked wipes, which would improve user friendliness. Further research on the environmental impact may open the door for environmental organizations to certify or support it, emphasizing its environmentally beneficial qualities. Opportunities to incorporate this sustainable solution into routine paint removal and maintenance procedures are provided by partnerships with the automotive sector.

9.3 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there is a pressing need for safer and greener substitutes for conventional chemical strippers. This project aims to fill that need by creating a less dangerous paint remover solution using common household objects. Although there are many advantages to this strategy, including lower health risks and environmental impact, issues with consistency and effectiveness still exist. It will take sustained innovation and research to get past these challenges and guarantee broad usability. In addition to offering a safer paint removal technique, this project supports larger initiatives to advance sustainable practices both inside and outside of the automotive sector. Researchers, business people, and consumers working together will be essential to maximizing the potential of this environmentally friendly solution as this field develops.

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