

Fresh approach



A new system that adds a further layer of safety to race suits, and smells good, too

BY MARSHALL PRUETT



TECHNICAL SPOTLIGHT

Spray-on fireproofing

MOLECULE REFRESH

A cross between Molecule Wash and a deodorant, meant to be used between sessions and reduce bad smells

MOLECULE WASH

Reduces the need for dry cleaning firesuits between race meetings

FIRE PROTECTOR

Prevents fuel and similar substances soaking into fabric. Could drastically increase the safety of the suit

The real breakthrough in these products is in the Fire Protector spray (right)

New to the field of fire safety and Nomex suit care is a range of products from Molecule Labs of Benecia, California. Founded by pro racer and chemical engineer Michael Guasch, the line of Molecule products serve to provide a real solution to the removal of stains and bacteria that cause the odour frequently associated with Nomex suits. The kit contains four bottles: Spot Cleaner; Refresher; Molecule Wash and, the real heavyweight of safety innovation, Molecule Fire Protector.

Molecule Wash replaces the need for dry cleaning fire suits with an engineered solution formulated to remove the frequent stains and contaminants found in racing. The antimicrobial components and lightly scented formula contained within are

activated in the water of a washing machine and cured into the fabric when heated in a dryer. If nothing else, savings on dry cleaning bills are immediate.

Refresher contains the same antimicrobial and scented ingredients found in Molecule Wash, but is designed to be applied between sessions as suits and helmets become ripe. The practice of leaving a suit or

INCENDIARY PRODUCTS BEAD AND ROLL OFF OR QUICKLY BURN OUT

helmet out in the sun to let the perspiration dry is common but all that accomplishes is drying the sweat and bacteria into the Nomex material. Refresher both kills bacteria present and adds a pleasant scent, too.

Where Molecule Labs makes a giant leap though is in its fire

protector spray. Formulated to act much like a barrier spray, Fire Protector prevents the unique chemical compounds found within most flammable liquids from bonding and saturating

Nomex fabric. As such, it acts more like a fire repellent, causing 85 per cent of incendiary products, such as splashing

fuel, to either bead and roll off the suit or quickly burn itself out on the surface of the fabric.

These new products from Molecule have already found their way into Formula 1, Champ Car and the American Le Mans Series, while England's David Charles Group - the company

responsible for the maintenance, cleaning and treatment of many of the driver and pit crew fire suits in F1, GP2 and A1GP - began buying and using the products as an integral part of its suit services in 2007.

As more series learn of the Molecule range of products and more distributors are assigned, expect these products to start appearing in amateur racing communities, too. Soon, stinky suits and helmets, long the bane of racing wives and dry cleaners, could be a thing of the past and flaming, fuel-soaked suits gone forever.

CONTACT

MOLECULE LABS INC
5458 Gateway Plaza Drive
Benicia
California 94510
USA
WEBSITE
www.moleculelabs.com