# BIOCORTEC®
## NEWSLETTER

**JUNE 2026**

## CLEANUP DAY AT CORTEC® WORLD HEADQUARTERS

*Cortec® Environmental Compliance Specialist, Derek Jensen, shares a recap of an employee activity we can all imitate in our corner of the world!*

On April 8th, The EMS (environmental management system) committee sponsored a cleanup of trash and debris around the Cortec® property. Members of production, the EMS committee, and office employees helped walk around the whole property, from the [back] all the way to the main entrance, picking up any trash that had blown out of our dumpsters, fallen off vehicles by the road, or ended up on the shore of our wetlands.

Actions like this show how our dedication to the EMS manifests in a cleaner and greener world. Starting locally and expanding to our community, it is our responsibility to keep our areas clean and do our best to protect the ecosystems that we depend on. Collecting trash and returning it to a proper trash receptacle can be done at work and in your community, all in an effort to keep pollution out of the world. There are proper trash disposal areas that have the ability and capacity to treat and handle all kinds of waste.

When waste ends up in the environment, it can affect animals and microorganisms which may be harmful to their ecosystem. The EMS Committee and I were so happy to see Cortec® employees voluntarily making a change that has a huge impact on our workspace.

Keep up the great work!

*You have to join the solution, to prevent pollution.*

Derek Jensen
Environmental Specialist

# BIOBASED Q&A WITH CORTEC® R&D

With the recent release of a biobased anticorrosion paint and paint stripper, it seemed like a good time to hear directly from some of our chemists who were involved in biobased product R&D. Jake Hemberger, our Coatings Chemist, was chiefly responsible for the development of EcoLine® 3860, while Pavlo Solntsev, R&D Manager, spearheaded the development of EcoLine® Surface Reveal. Here's a snapshot of what went into formulating these two products—one intentionally biobased, the other a happy coincidence while seeking formulation improvements!

**EcoLine® 3860 Q&A with Jake Hemberger**

*Q: What inspired the development of this biobased product?*

*A:* The coatings industry is investing heavily in sustainable technologies. Cortec® has long aligned itself with green initiatives and has already helped advance the performance of low-VOC, water-based acrylics in the industrial sector. In continuing our commitment to innovation, market alignment, and Cortec's longstanding focus on sustainability, the development of a biobased coating was a natural progression.

*Q: What improvements have you seen in the availability of biobased resins in the last 10 years?*

*A:* The improvements largely stem from the hybridization of resin systems and advancements in water-based emulsions and dispersions, rather than continued reliance on the classic solvent-based technologies.

*Q: What are some of the challenges of biobased coating R&D and how does Cortec® technology help overcome them?*

*A:* 15 years ago, water-based technologies were used primarily in decorative applications. Significant investment was required to advance the technology to a level that could compete with solvent-based systems. Today, biobased coatings are at a similar stage to where conventional water-based technologies were 15 years ago, but I predict they will evolve at a much faster pace than their predecessors.

*Q: What does the development of EcoLine® 3860 mean for the future of Cortec's biobased coatings R&D?*

*A:* EcoLine® 3860 represents Cortec's first generation of biobased permanent coating technology. As market demand increases and the technology continues to evolve, our portfolio of biobased coatings will advance alongside it.

**EcoLine® Surface Reveal Q&A with Pavlo Solntsev**

*Q: What inspired the development of EcoLine® Surface Reveal?*

*A:* The request came from production. They asked for a product that can work a little bit better than what they used back then, with less odor. So we came out with this formula, and it looks like we killed multiple birds with one stone here. Biobased content was higher, there was less odor, etc.

*Q: What made it possible to increase the biobased content so significantly?*

*A:* It wasn't the intention to go with such a high biobased content. It was just a lucky coincidence because we focused on other criteria such as performance, less odor, a simple formula, and it just happened to have a high biobased content because of the building block we use.

*Q: What special considerations go into the development of a biobased product?*

*A:* You basically look at what functionalities or building blocks you need in your formula and ask, what building block should I use specifically from the biobased portfolio to meet those requirements? Then you just pick some candidates and see how they come together to form a product.

# TRENDS

**Biological Cleaning Trends – The Move Toward Biosurfactants, Enzymes, and Probiotics**

Biological cleaning is a growing trend. After attending Interclean Amsterdam, one of the world's largest gatherings of cleaning professionals, in April, Diana Di Marco (Bionetix® VP – Managing Director) noted, "There's clearly a very strong shift in the market toward probiotics and enzymes not just as 'green alternatives,' but as high-performance solutions."

This observation underscores the important opportunity we have right now to make the most of nature-empowered cleaning mechanisms and increase their availability to a society interested in sustainable, biobased, high-performance cleaning solutions.

Two key components at the core of that functionality? *Biosurfactants and enzymes.*

*Biosurfactants* offer the same important function of synthetic surfactants—to provide emulsification and make contaminants more accessible to cleaning solutions—but without the same negative implications that might come from releasing synthetic chemicals into the environment. Biosurfactants are produced by microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi, offering a natural way to produce these beneficial cleaning agents rather than resorting to chemical synthesis from petrochemicals. *Enzymes,* on the other hand, are biological catalysts, meaning that they speed up the breakdown of contaminant substrates (e.g., fats, greases, starches, cellulosic material), loosening stains and soils more quickly from fabrics or hard surfaces so they can be rinsed away.

If desired, biosurfactants and enzymes can be combined with beneficial microbes. These take up the cleaning task by producing additional enzymes and ultimately consuming the tiny pieces of digested organic matter as fuel for their own metabolic functions, offering residual cleaning even after the initial job is completed.

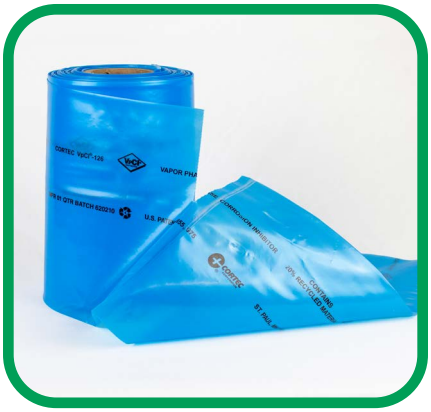
Instead of using harsh bleaches, ammonias, or acids, cleaning professionals can now turn to biosurfactants, biobased enzymes, and beneficial microorganisms for effective cleaning while reducing the chemical burden of harsh cleaners. Next generation cleaners not only demand safer handling and lower environmental impact, but also high performance. Both sides of the coin are now possible thanks to biological cleaners.

Explore Bionetix® additives, concentrates, and I&I (Industrial and Institutional) cleaning solutions here: www.bionetix-international.com


*The Bionetix® team sharing "Culture that works" at Interclean*

**Fighting Plastic Pollution with Increased Recycled Content and Paper Bags**

In today's economy, corporations are looking for ways to reduce the use of virgin plastic by incorporating higher recycled content or replacing plastic altogether with paper, a biobased resource. These steps become more challenging when it comes to specialty packaging materials with corrosion inhibitor or ESD properties. Read the next page for a look at some of the steps that Cortec® and its customers are taking.



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**Minimum 20% Recycled Content for VpCI®-126**

At the beginning of 2026, Cortec® raised its own internal recycling standards by moving to make all **VpCI®-126 bags with 20% minimum recycled content**. This standardization simplifies compliance for multinational corporations that might otherwise have to reconfigure their entire supply chain to keep up with changing demands such as those in India. Both Cortec® Advanced Films (US) and EcoCortec® (Europe) continue to meet customer requirements of up to 30% PCR (post-consumer recycled) content upon request.

Learn more: www.cortecvci.com/VpCI®-126-recycled-content-bags/


**Replacing Plastic VpCI® Bags with Paper**

In the last few years, Cortec® has seen both CorShield® VpCI®-146 Paper (now available as custom order bags) and EcoSonic® ESD Paper (now available as customer order envelopes) adopted specifically for sustainability reasons. CorShield® VpCI®-146 Paper bags were adopted by a big-three automaker who wanted a sustainable packaging option for service parts, while an electronics manufacturer who specifically wanted to replace plastic ESD bags with something more environmentally responsible switched to custom self-adhesive envelopes made from EcoSonic® ESD Paper.

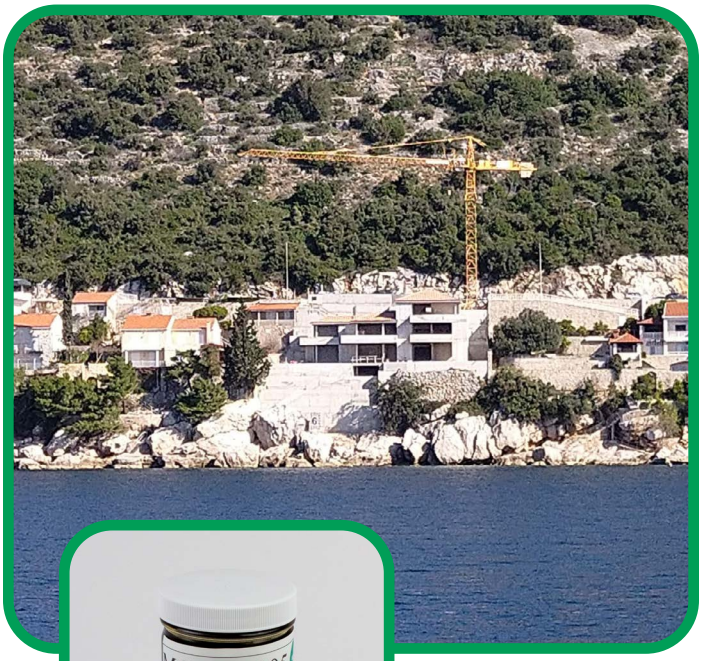

Learn more about this customizable sustainability solution here: www.cortecvci.com/vci-esd-paper-bags-sustainable-packaging

# BIOBASED CASE HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

**MCI® in Seaside Villa**

What do you do when you build a reinforced concrete residence next to the sea? The wise thing would be to include a corrosion inhibiting admixture in the mix. In Case History #864, the contractor of a seaside villa on the coast of Croatia was building all structural components—walls, floors, stairs, etc.—with C30/37 concrete. The investor wanted to enhance the villa's service life, so MCI®-2005 was added to the concrete at the batching plant. In addition to delaying corrosion initiation and reducing corrosion rates once started, MCI®-2005 is a USDA Certified Biobased Product, adding an extra dimension of sustainability to the overall effort of conserving resources long-term by extending concrete service life.

Log in to read the full case history: www.corteccasehistories.com




USDA CERTIFIED BIOBASED PRODUCT
PRODUCT 67%

# PRODUCT NEWS

Since our last BioCortec® newsletter in October 2025, we have witnessed several exciting biobased/biodegradable product announcements! Here are some of the highlights:


**EcoLine® Surface Reveal** is a next-generation industrial paint remover that contains 77% USDA certified biobased content and is made with biodegradable materials. It does not contain methylene chloride or NMP. Building on Cortec's earlier biobased paint strippers, this upgraded formula delivers strong performance with improved user experience and significantly higher biobased content (up from 50%).

Learn more here: www.cortecvci.com/ecoline-surface-reveal-fast-paint-removal

**EcoLine® 3860** represents a major step forward in the development of biobased anticorrosion coatings for metal. EcoLine® 3860 contains 27% USDA certified biobased content and is an extension of Cortec's flagship line of VpCI®-386 anticorrosion coatings. As typical for Cortec® coatings, EcoLine® 3860 remains well within Green Seal and EPA guidelines for low VOC coatings, registering at 0.6 lbs/gal (72 g/L).

Learn more: www.cortecvci.com/product-release-cortec-steps-into-the-future-with-biobased-acrylic-anticorrosion-coating

The film experts at Cortec® have spent the last several years optimizing materials, processes, and equipment (including a >$2 million capital investment) to bring a significantly improved **Eco Wrap®** to the market. The advanced formulation is tackier and stronger than the previous iteration while remaining certified industrially compostable by TÜV Austria (#TA8012106218) and meeting the EN 13432/ ASTM D6400 standard for commercial composting.


Learn more: www.cortecvci.com/press-release-eco-wrap-certified-industrially-compostable-stretch-film-better-than-ever

**Eco-Bio Paper® Barrier** goes a step further than EcoShield® Recyclable Barrier Paper by using a biobased (90-100% renewable organic carbon per ASTM D6866), biodegradable

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(per OECD 301) barrier coating. This has the potential to open more sustainable end of life options than simply recycling (depending on local regulations). Ultimately, Eco-Bio Paper® Barrier continues to tackle moisture and grease resistance without the risk of plastic and foil pollution.

Learn more: www.cortecvci.com/product-release-cortec-expands-sustainable-packaging-options-with-new-ecobio-barrier-paper

**Eco-Bio Paper® VpCI®-144 Barrier** also takes EcoShield® VpCI®-144 Paper to the next level of sustainability by including a biodegradable, biobased (90-100% renewable organic carbons per ASTM D6866) barrier coating on one side. Cortec's time-tested VpCI® coating, which is biodegradable per ASTM D6400, remains on the other side to inhibit corrosion. The resulting paper tackles corrosion protection + moisture/grease resistance while opening new possibilities for sustainable disposal options (depending on local regulations).

Learn more: www.cortecvci.com/product-release-cortec-adds-new-sustainability-dimension-to-vpci-barrier-paper-for-metals-protection

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CORTEC CORPORATION

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