CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A desensitizing, anti-tartar oral care composition comprising an orally acceptable vehicle; tetrapotassium pyrophosphate present in an amount of from 3 to 6 wt% based on the weight of the composition, and an anti-calculus amount of sodium tripolyphosphate present in an amount from 1 to 10 wt.% based on the weight of the composition.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the tetrapotassium pyrophosphate is present in an amount of 4 to 5 wt% based on the weight of the composition.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the tetrapotassium pyrophosphate is present in an amount of 4 wt% based on the weight of the composition.

4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the tetrapotassium pyrophosphate comprises the sole potassium salt in the composition.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the sodium tripolyphosphate is present in an amount of from 1 to 8 wt% based on the weight of the composition.

6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the sodium tripolyphosphate is present in an amount of 7 wt% based on the weight of the composition.

7. The oral care composition of claim 1, for use in a method of removing tartar from a tooth surface, the method comprising contacting a tooth surface of the oral cavity with the oral care composition.

8. The oral care composition of claim 1, for use in a method of treating sensitive teeth, the method comprising contacting a sensitive tooth surface with the oral care composition.

9. The oral care composition of claim 1, for use in a method of treating sensitive teeth and removing tartar from a tooth surface, the method comprising contacting a sensitive tooth surface with the oral care composition.

10. A desensitizing, anti-tartar oral care composition comprising, as a dual-function active agent providing desensitizing and anti-tartar control benefits, tetrapotassium pyrophosphate in an orally acceptable vehicle, wherein the tetrapotassium pyrophosphate is present in an amount of from 3 to 6 wt% based on the weight of the composition, and wherein the composition further comprises an anti-calculus amount of sodium tripolyphosphate present in an amount from 1 to 10 wt.% based on the weight of the composition.

11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the tetrapotassium pyrophosphate is present in an amount of 4 wt% based on the weight of the composition.

12. The composition of claim 11, wherein the tetrapotassium pyrophosphate comprises the sole potassium salt in the composition.

13. Use of the oral composition of any one of claims 1 to 6 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating sensitive teeth and removing tartar from a tooth surface.