CLAIMS

1. A cleaning formulation comprising:
   a. from 10 to 99 wt% water;
   b. from 0.8 to 40 wt% surfactant;
   c. optionally, other additives; and
   d. from 0.2 to 20 wt% of a solvent additive of formula (I) and:

$$R^1\text{-}O\text{-}(AO)_n\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}R^2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein:

R^1 is C_3 to C_{12} alkyl;

AO is an alkylene oxide group wherein each AO is independently selected from an ethylene oxide group, a propylene oxide group and a butylene oxide group and wherein at least one AO group is an ethylene oxide group;

n is from 1 to 9;

R^2 is C_6 to C_{13} alkyl or alkenyl; and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the solvent additive is from 16 to 36; and

wherein the solvent additive has a water solubility of less than 1 wt% in deionised water at 20°C and wherein the surfactant enables the solvent additive to dissolve and/or disperse in the cleaning formulation.

2. The cleaning formulation according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is C_4 to C_8 alkyl.

3. The cleaning formulation according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein all of the alkylene oxide groups in the solvent additive are ethylene oxide groups.

4. The cleaning formulation according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein n is from 3 to 7.

5. The cleaning formulation according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein R^2 is C_7 to C_{11} alkyl.

6. The cleaning formulation according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the weight ratio of surfactant to solvent additive is from 1:2 to 10:1, optionally from 1:1 to 5:1.

7. The cleaning formulation according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the surfactant comprises a non-ionic surfactant, optionally at least one alcohol ethoxylate.

8. The cleaning formulation according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, comprising from 50 to 95 wt% water.

9. A method of hard surface cleaning comprising the steps of:
   a. applying to a hard surface a solvent additive of formula (I):

$$R^1\text{-}O\text{-}(AO)_n\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}R^2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein:

R^1 is C_3 to C_{12} alkyl;

AO is an alkylene oxide group wherein each AO is independently selected from an ethylene oxide group, a propylene oxide group and a butylene oxide group and wherein at least one AO group is an ethylene oxide group;

n is from 1 to 9;

R^2 is C_6 to C_{13} alkyl or alkenyl; and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the solvent additive is from 16 to 36; and

b. cleaning an oily and/or waxy soil from the hard surface using the solvent additive; and

c. optionally, rinsing the hard surface with water.

10. The method according to Claim 9, wherein in step a. the solvent additive is applied in the absence of a cleaning formulation.

11. The method according to Claim 9, wherein in step a. the solvent additive is applied as part of a cleaning formulation according to any one of Claims 1 to 8.

12. The method according to Claim 11, including measuring Percentage Soil Removal (% S.R.) of an oily and/or waxy soil, wherein the Percentage Soil Removal (% S.R.) of the oily and/or waxy soil, is at least two times greater for the cleaning formulation according to any one of Claims 1 to 8 when compared with an equivalent cleaning formulation which does not comprise the solvent additive.

13. Use of a solvent additive of formula (I):

R^1-O-$(AO)_n$-C(=O)-R^2 (I)

wherein:

R^1 is C_3 to C_{12} alkyl;

AO is an alkylene oxide group wherein each AO is independently selected from an ethylene oxide group, a propylene oxide group and a butylene oxide group and wherein at least one AO group is an ethylene oxide group;

n is from 1 to 9;

R^2 is C_6 to C_{13} alkyl or alkenyl; and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the solvent additive is from 16 to 36; and

in a cleaning formulation;

wherein the cleaning formulation exhibits an improved Percentage Soil Removal (% S.R.) of an oily and/or waxy soil from a hard surface by the cleaning formulation when compared with a Percentage Soil Removal of an equivalent cleaning formulation which does not comprise the solvent additive.

14. Use in a cleaning formulation of a combination of:

a. an alcohol ethoxylate fatty acid ester comprising the reaction product of a C_4 to C_8 alcohol, 1 to 9 mols of ethylene oxide and a C_8 to C_{12} fatty acid and having a total number of carbon atoms from 16 to 36; and

b. an alcohol ethoxylate comprising the reaction product of a C_6 to C_{14} alcohol and 1 to 12 mols of ethylene oxide;

wherein the alcohol ethoxylate fatty acid ester has a water solubility of less than 1 wt% in deionised water at 20°C and the alcohol ethoxylate improves the dispersion and/or dissolution of the alcohol ethoxylate fatty acid ester in the cleaning formulation.