CLAIMS:

1. A dispensing screen for dispensing, by evaporation, volatile materials applied thereto, the screen comprising:

a sheet of material; and

diverting means formed on or in the material of the sheet,

characterized in that

the diverting means form a minimum path length of the sheet for volatile material flowing along it between at least a portion of a first edge and an opposing second edge of the sheet, which minimum path length is longer than the distance between the first and second edges along the surface of the sheet.

2. A dispensing screen according to claim 1, wherein the sheet is permeable to air and/or wherein the sheet is formed from woven polyester fibre.

3. A dispensing screen according to claim 1 or 2, wherein, in use, volatile material applied to the first edge of the sheet travels towards the second edge at least partially by capillary action and/or at least partially under the effect of gravity.

4. A dispensing screen according to any preceding claim, wherein the diverting means comprise at least one perforation formed in the sheet or a plurality of holes formed in the sheet, or a plurality of holes formed in the sheet and arranged in an isometric pattern, or a plurality of holes formed in the sheet and arranged in an isometric pattern at least 60˚ to a line perpendicular to at least one of the first and second edges.

5. A dispensing screen according to claim 4, wherein the sheet comprises joining edges which join the first and second edges, and wherein the diverting means further comprises impermeable regions extending from the joining edges to the holes closest to the joining edges, said impermeable regions being impermeable to said volatile material.

6. A dispensing screen according to claim 5, wherein the impermeable regions provide structural support to the sheet.

7. A dispensing screen according to any preceding claim, wherein the sheet is mounted in the screen in a support, the support comprising a pad for receiving volatile material from a reservoir or wick connected thereto and supplying the material to the sheet.

8. A dispensing apparatus, comprising a dispensing screen according to any preceding claim.

9. A dispensing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a reservoir for storing the volatile material before it is dispensed.

10. A dispensing apparatus according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the dispensing screen is mounted around the reservoir.

11. A dispensing apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 10, further comprising a wick, extending from the reservoir to the dispensing screen and in fluid communication at or adjacent to the top of the dispensing screen to supply volatile material thereto.

12. A dispensing apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 11, further comprising a sink, in use below the dispensing screen, configured to receive and retain material from the dispensing screen which has not evaporated from the dispensing screen.

13. A dispensing apparatus according to claim 8 to 12, wherein the sheet of material is mounted in a surround that is impermeable to said volatile liquid, or wherein the sheet of material is mounted in a surround that is impermeable to said volatile liquid and connected to the dispensing means.

14. A dispensing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the sink comprises absorbent granules, cellulosic or porous plastic.

15. A dispensing apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 14, comprising a plurality of screens according to any of claims 4 to 6, and 7 when depending on any of claims 4 to 6 parallel to one another with their main sides facing one another, and a spacer between each dispensing screen.