

Description

Technical Field

The present invention relates to softening detergent compositions containing a narrowly-defined amide softening agent.

The compositions herein, in addition to providing good cleaning performance, exhibit excellent through-the-wash softening properties, and provide additional fabric-care benefits such as anti-static, anti-wrinkling, ease-of-ironing and color stability.

Background of the invention

Formulators of fabric treatment compositions have long sought means for simultaneously washing and softening fabrics. Among the various approaches suggested are methods employing clay softeners, or amine materials, or both ingredients in combination, such as described in e.g.: German Patents 29.64.114, 28.57.16, 24.39.541, 23.34.899 and European Patents 0 026 528 and 0 028 432.

Amines have been used in combination with soaps (U.K. patent 1 514 276) fatty acids (published E.P.A. 0 133 804) or phosphate esters (published E.P.A. 0 168 889) as through-the-wash softeners.

The formulation of the art through-the-wash softening detergent compositions can, however, be subject to flexibility problems which are often due to incompatibility between certain ingredients (between e. g. peroxyacid bleaching agents and softening agents).

Carboxy-amides have been used as antistatic agents in industrial textile treatment (German patent 30 43 618) and N-alkyl isostearamides as antistatic agents in laundry application (French patent 2,531,447). Japanese patent J5 8144-175-A discloses the industrial treatment of textile by cationic softening agents and ethoxylated fatty acid amides.

Alkoxyated fatty amides are known as surfactants (EP-A-0 000 595) and as viscosity control agents (EP-A-0 112 719).

German Patent Application 19 59 007 discloses the use as softening agent of a monoethanolamide. German Patent Application 33 10 417 discloses the use of fatty acids diethanolamides as antistatic/non-yellowing agents.

None of the above documents discloses the use of the specific amides of the present invention in softening detergent compositions.

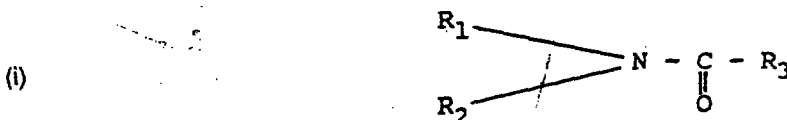
It is an object of the present invention to provide detergent compositions capable of providing excellent cleaning, softening, and fabric-care properties.

It is a further object of the invention to provide softening detergent compositions which can be formulated with increased flexibility in particular in presence of peroxyacid bleaching compounds.

Indeed, it has now been discovered that the use of a narrowly-defined class of amides as softening agents in detergent compositions provides excellent results in both cleaning and softening of fabric, as well as other « fabric care » benefits, possibly in the presence of peroxyacid bleaching agents.

Summary of the invention

The present invention relates to detergent compositions, capable of giving through-the-wash fabric-care benefits inclusive of softness, containing deterative surfactants, a nitrogen-containing fabric softening agent and, if desired deterative additives, and characterized in that the nitrogen-containing softening agent is an amide having the formula :



wherein R_1 and R_2 are, selected independently, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{22}$ -alk(en)yl, hydroxy-alkyl, heterocyclic or alkyl substituted heterocyclic groups, R_3 is hydrogen, or a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{22}$ alk(en)yl, aryl, alkyl-aryl, heterocyclic or alkyl-substituted heterocyclic group, or is O-R_4 , wherein R_4 is a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{22}$ alk(en)yl, aryl, alkyl-aryl, heterocyclic or alkyl-substituted heterocyclic group, R_3 and R_4 possibly containing 1 to 10 ethylene oxide units, or functional groups selected from hydroxy, amine, amide, ester, and ether groups; with the provisos that :

- at least one of the R_1 and R_2 groups contains 10 or more carbon atoms : and
- the sum of carbon atoms in $\text{R}_1 + \text{R}_2 + \text{R}_3$ is equal to or greater than 14.

Detailed description of the invention

The amide softening agent

5 The amide softening agents for use in the present invention is represented by the formula :



wherein R_1 and R_2 are, selected independently, C_1 - C_{22} alk(en)yl, hydroxy-alkyl, heterocyclic or alkyl-substituted heterocyclic groups, R_3 is hydrogen, or a C_1 - C_{22} alk(en)yl, aryl, alkyl-aryl, heterocyclic or alkyl-substituted heterocyclic group, or is $O-R_4$, wherein R_4 is a C_1 - C_{22} alk(en)yl, aryl, alkyl-aryl, heterocyclic or alkyl-substituted heterocyclic group, R_3 and R_4 possibly containing 1 to 10 ethylene oxide units, or functional groups selected from hydroxy, amine, amide, ester, and ether groups; with the provisos that :

- 20 — at least one of the R_1 and R_2 groups contains 10 or more carbon atoms; and
- the sum of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_2 + R_3$ is equal to or greater than 14. Preferably, the sum of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_3$ is equal to or greater than 16.

Most preferred in the context of the present invention are amides of the formula (i), wherein the sum of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_2$ is greater than 16 and R_3 is an alk(en)yl group containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or is an alkyl phenyl group containing up to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl chain.

25 Such species include N,N-ditallow acetamide, N,N-dicoconut acetamide, N,N-dioctadecyl propanamide, N-dodecyl, N-octadecyl acetamide, N-hexadecyl, N-dodecyl butanamide, N,N-ditallow benzamide, N,N-dicoconut benzamide, N,N-ditallow 2-phenyl acetamide.

Most preferred are N,N-ditallow acetamide, N,N-dicoconut acetamide, N,N-ditallow benzamide. Examples of compound of formula (i) wherein R_3 contains hydroxy groups and/or ether linkages include N,N-ditallow 2-hydroxy acetamide, N,N-ditallow 3-hydroxy propanamide, N,N-ditallow 2-methoxy acetamide, N,N-ditallow 2-ethoxy acetamide, N,N-ditallow 3-methoxy propanamide.

30 Examples of compound of formula (i) wherein R_3 is $-O-R_4$ include N,N-ditallow alkoxy-carboxylamines and N,N-dicoconut alkoxy-carboxylamines, with the alkoxy group being preferably methoxy, ethoxy or propoxy.

35 The amide softening agent is used preferably at levels of from 0.1 % to 15 % by weight, more preferably from 1 % to 10 % by weight, most preferably from 3 % to 6 % by weight.

In a highly preferred embodiment, the amide softening agent is pre-mixed (predispersed) with a dispersing agent, and the resulting mixture is then added to the rest of the composition.

40 Any conventional dispersing agent can be used for that purpose. Examples of suitable dispersing agents include nonionic surfactants resulting from the condensation of primary or secondary aliphatic alcohols e. g. tallow alcohol or alkyl phenol, with from 5-12 ethylene oxide units; and phosphate esters as described in European patent application 0168829, having the formula :



with $R' = C_{12-14}$ and $m = 1-5$, sold under the Trade Name « Servoxyl VPAZ ».

In a particularly preferred embodiment, fatty acids are used as dispersing agents for the amide softener. Fatty acids having from 10 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl chain like lauric, myristic, palmitic, 50 stearic, oleic acids and mixtures thereof can advantageously be used in the present context. Especially preferred is a mixture of palmitic and stearic acids.

Fatty acid dispersing agents are used most preferably in a weight ratio of 1/1 to 10/1 of amide softening agent to fatty acid.

55 Deterative surfactants — The compositions of this invention will typically contain organic surface-active agents (« surfactants ») to provide the usual cleaning benefits associated with the use of such materials.

Deterative surfactants useful herein include well-known synthetic anionic, nonionic, amphoteric and zwitterionic surfactants. Typical of these are the alkyl benzene sulfonates, alkyl- and alkylether sulfates, 60 paraffin sulfonates, olefin sulfonates, alkoxylated (especially ethoxylated) alcohols and alkyl phenols, amine oxides, alpha-sulfonates of fatty acids and of fatty acid esters, and the like, which are well-known from the detergency art. In general, such deterative surfactants contain an alkyl group in the C_9 - C_{18} range: the anionic deterative surfactants can be used in the form of their sodium, potassium or triethanolammonium salts; the nonionics generally contain from 5 to 17 ethylene oxide groups. U.S. 65 Patent 4.111.855 contains detailed listings of such typical deterative surfactants. C_{11} - C_{16} alkyl benzene

sulfonates, C₁₂-C₁₈ paraffin-sulfonates and alkyl sulfates, and the ethoxylated alcohols and alkyl phenols are especially preferred in the compositions of the present type.

Also useful herein as the surfactant are the water-soluble soaps, e. g. the common sodium and potassium coconut or tallow soaps well-known in the art.

5 The surfactant component can comprise as little as 1 % of the compositions herein, but preferably the compositions will contain 5 % to 40 %, preferably 10 % to 30 %, of surfactant. Mixtures of the ethoxylated nonionics with anionics such as the alkyl benzene sulfonates, alkyl sulfates and paraffin sulfonates are preferred for through-the-wash cleaning of a broad spectrum of soils and stains from fabrics.

10 Deterative adjuncts — The amide softening agent is preferably, without this being an essential requirement, used in combination with a detergent-compatible clay softener. Such clay softeners are well-known in the detergency art and are in broad commercial use, both in Europe and in the United States. Included among such clay softeners are various heat-treated kaolins and various multi-layer smectites. Preferred clay softeners are smectite softener clays that are described in German Patent
15 Application 23 34 899 and in U.K. Patent 1.400.898, which can be referred to for details. Softener clays are used in the preferred compositions at levels of at least 1 %, generally 1-20 %, preferably 2-10 %.

The compositions herein can contain other ingredients which aid in their cleaning performance. For example, the compositions herein can advantageously contain a bleaching agent, especially a peroxyacid bleaching agent, without any prejudice to the stability and overall performance, thanks to the
20 compatibility of the amide softening agents of the invention with peroxyacid bleaching agents. In the context of the present invention, the term peroxyacid bleaching agent encompasses both peroxyacids per se and systems which are able to yield peroxyacids in situ.

Peroxyacids per se are meant to include the alkaline and alkaline-earth metal salts thereof. Peroxyacids and diperoxyacids are commonly used; examples are diperoxydodecanoic acid (DPDA) or
25 peroxyphthalic acid.

Systems capable of delivering peracids in situ consist of a peroxygen bleaching agent and an activator therefor.

The peroxygen bleaching agents are those capable of yielding hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution; those compounds are well-known in the art, and include hydrogen peroxide, alkali-metal
30 peroxides, organic peroxide bleaching agents such as urea peroxide, inorganic persalt bleaching agents such as alkali metal perborates, percarbonates, perphosphates, persulfates, and the like.

Preferred are sodium perborate, commercially available in the form of mono- and tetra-hydrates, sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate, sodium pyrophosphate peroxyhydrate and urea peroxyhydrate.

The liberated hydrogen peroxide reacts with the bleach activator to form the peroxyacid bleach.
35 Classes of bleach activators include esters, imides, imidazoles, oximes, and carbonates. In those classes, preferred materials include methyl o-acetoxy benzoates; sodium-p-acetoxy benzene sulfonates such as sodium 4-nonanoyloxybenzene sulfonate; sodium-4-octanoyloxybenzene sulfonate, and sodium-4-decanoyloxybenzenesulfonate; bisphenol A diacetate; tetra acetyl ethylene diamine; tetra acetyl hexamethylene diamine; tetra acetyl methylene diamine.

40 Other highly preferred peroxygen bleach activators which are disclosed in U.S. Patents 4.483.778 and 4.539.130, are alpha-substituted alkyl or alkenyl esters, such as sodium-4(2-chlorooctanoyloxy)benzene sulfonate, sodium 4-(3,5,5-trimethyl hexanoyloxy)benzene sulfonate. Suitable peroxyacids are also peroxygen bleach activators such as described in published European Patent Application N° 0 166 571, i. e., compounds of the general type RXOOH and RXAL, wherein R is a hydroxycarbonyl group, X is a hetero-
45 atom, A is a carbonyl bridging group and L is a leaving group, especially oxybenzenesulfonate.

The compositions herein may contain alternatively any other type of bleaching agent, conventionally used in detergent compositions. Also, it is highly preferred that through-the-wash detergent compositions contain a detergent builder and/or metal ion sequesterant. Compounds classifiable and well-known in the art as detergent builders include the nitrilotriacetates, polycarboxylates, citrates, water-soluble phos-
50 phates such as tri-polyphosphate and sodium ortho- and pyro-phosphates, silicates, and mixtures thereof. Metal ion sequestrants include all of the above, plus materials like ethylenediaminetetraacetate, the amino-polyphosphonates and phosphates (DEQUEST)[®] and a wide variety of other poly-functional organic acids and salts too numerous to mention in detail here. See U.S. Patent 3.579.454 for typical examples of the use of such materials in various cleaning compositions. In general, the builder/sequest-
55 rant will comprise about 0.5 % to 45 % of the composition. The 1-10 micrometers size zeolite (e. g. zeolite A) builders disclosed in German Patent 24 22 655 are especially preferred for use in low-phosphate or non-phosphate compositions.

The laundry compositions herein also preferably contain enzymes to enhance their through-the-wash cleaning performance on a variety of soils and stains, such as amylase & protease enzymes. Amylase and
60 protease enzymes suitable for use in detergents are well-known in the art and in commercially available liquid and granular detergents. Commercial detergent enzymes (preferably a mixture of amylase and protease) are typically used at levels of 0.001 % to 2 %, and higher, in the present compositions. Other highly desirable detergent ingredients for use in the detergent compositions of the present invention are quaternary ammonium compounds of the form R₄R₅R₆R₇N⁺X⁻, wherein R₄ is alkyl having from 10 to
65 20, preferably from 12-18 carbon atoms, and R₅, R₆ and R₇ are each C₁ to C₄ alkyl, preferably methyl;

X⁻ is an anion, e. g. chloride. Examples of such quaternary ammonium compounds include C₁₂-C₁₄ alkyl trimethyl ammonium chloride and cocoalkyl trimethyl ammonium methosulfate. The quaternary ammonium compounds can be used at levels from 0.5 % to 5 %, preferably from 1 % to 3 %.

Moreover, the compositions herein can contain, in addition to ingredients already mentioned, various other optional ingredients typically used in commercial products to provide aesthetic or additional product performance benefits. Typical ingredients include pH regulants, perfumes, dyes, optical brighteners, soil suspending agents, hydrotropes and gel-control agents, freeze-thaw stabilizers, bactericides, preservatives, suds control agents, bleach stabilizing agents.

In a through-the-wash mode, the compositions are typically used at a concentration of at least 500 ppm, preferably 0.10 % to 1.5 %, in an aqueous laundry bath at pH 7-11 to launder fabrics. The laundering can be carried out over the range from 5 °C to the boil, with excellent results.

Form and Preparation of the compositions — The detergent compositions of this invention can be present in any suitable physical state inclusive of granular, liquid, pasty, or sheet-like form. They may be prepared in any way, as appropriate to their physical form, by mixing the components, co-agglomerating them, micro-encapsulating them, dispersing them in a liquid carrier, and releasably adsorbing or coating them onto a non-particulate substrate, such as a non-woven or paper sheet.

Preferably, the compositions are in granular form.

A highly preferred method of preparation of said granular compositions consists in preparing a melt of the dispersing agent and the amide, dispersing the molten mixture into a stirred, aqueous crutcher mix comprising the balance of the deterative ingredients, and spray-drying in standard fashion. In alternative but much less preferred modes, the melt can be atomized onto the detergent granule or allowed to solidify, ground in a colloid mill, and dry-mixed with the balance of the detergent composition. The compositions herein may also be sprayed onto particles of, e. g., sodium perborate mono or tetrahydrate, sodium sulfate, sodium carbonate, sodium silicate, sodium phosphate, or clay of the type described above.

Industrial Application

The following examples are typical of the preferred execution of the invention, but are not intended to limit the scope.

Example 1

Distallow acetamide (total 6 % of complete formulation after spray-drying) and stearic acid (2 % of complete formulation) are admixed, melted in a jacketed batch and stirred until homogeneity. A standard aqueous crutcher mix comprising the following ingredients is prepared (percentages listed relate to percent ingredients in the complete formulation after spray-drying).

Ingredients	Percent
C ₁₁ -C ₁₂ alkyl benzene sulfonate	6.2
Tallow alcohol ethoxylate (EO11)	1.0
Sodium tripolyphosphate	24.0
Sodium sulfate	15.0
Sodium silicate	8.0
Smectite clay *	6.5
Carboxymethyl cellulose	0.4
Polyacrylate (soil suspender)	1.7
Enzymes	0.5
Optical brightener	0.23
Sulfonated zinc phthalocyanine **	25 ppm
EDTA	0.2
Perfume/copper salts/minors	0.5
C ₁₂ -C ₁₄ alkyl trimethylammonium chloride	1.9
Moisture	to 77 %

The ditallow acetamide/stearic acid melt is poured into the crutcher mix (60-90 °C). The crutcher mix-plus-ditallow acetamide/stearic acid is then handled in entirely standard fashion, and spray-dried to form the final composition. After drying sodium perborate (20 %) and bleach activator (3 % 3-5-5-trimethyl hexamaic acid, sulfaphenyl ester, sodium salt ***) are dry-mixed with the granules.

* Natural smectic : ion exchange capacity above 50 meq/100 g clay

** U.S. Patent 3.927.967

*** U.S. Patents 4.483.778 & 4.539.130.

The composition of Example 1 was compared for through-the-wash softness vs. an identical composition which did not contain the ditallow acetamide/stearic acid premix (reference). The design of the test was such as to compare softness of textile pieces laundered 1 time (monocycle) and 4 times (multi-cycle) with invention and reference composition.

5 The testing conditions were as follows:

- automatic drum washing machine MIELE 423
- heating up from 15 °C to 60 °C ; 50' at 60 °C
- 1 % product concentration in wash liquor
- 18 grains/gallon (0.31 g/l) water hardness (3 : 1 Ca/Mg ratio).

10 The washed and line dried swatches were compared by a panel of two expert judges, working independently, by a paired comparison technique using a 9-point Scheffe scale. Differences were recorded in panel score units (psu), positive being performancewise better and the least significant difference (LSD) at 95 % confidence was also calculated.

The testing results were as follows:

15

Softness (Ex. 1 vs. Reference)		
	1 cycle	4 cycles
20 Terry fabric (12)	+ 0.46 (0.49)*	+ 0.96 (0.44)
Polyester fabric (12)	+ 0.76 (0.63)	+ 1.00 (0.00)

25

* value between parentheses is LSD value (see text).

30 These results show the significant through-the-wash softness benefits derivable from the composition of Example 1.

Example 2

35 Distallowbenzamide (5 % of complete formulation) and stearic acid (1 % of complete formulation) are admixed, melted in a jacketed batch and stirred until homogeneity. A standard aqueous crutcher rinse comprising the following ingredients is prepared (percentages listed relate to percent ingredients in the complete formulation after spray-drying).

40 Ingredients	Percent
C ₁₁ -C ₁₂ alkyl benzene sulfonate	6.2
Tallow alcohol ethoxylate (EO11)	1.0
Sodium tripolyphosphate	24.0
45 Sodium sulfate	15.0
Sodium silicate	8.0
Smectite clay *	6.5
Carboxymethyl cellulose	0.4
Polyacrylate (soil suspender)	1.7
50 Enzymes	0.5
Optical brightener	0.23
Sulfonated zinc phthalocyanine **	25 ppm
EDTA	0.2
Perfume/copper salts/minors	0.5
55 C ₁₂ -C ₁₄ alkyl trimethylammonium chloride	1.9
Moisture	to 77 %

60 The ditallowbenzamide/stearic acid melt is poured into the crutcher mix (60-90 °C). The crutcher mix-plus-ditallow acetamide/stearic acid is then handled in entirely standard fashion, and spray-dried to form the final composition. After drying sodium perborate (20 %) and bleach activator (3 % 3-5-5-trimethyl hexamaic acid, sulfaphenyl ester, sodium salt ***) are dry-mixed with the granules.

* Natural smectite : ion exchange capacity above 50 meq/100 g clay

** U.S. Patent 3.927.967

65 *** U.S. Patents 4.483.778 & 4.539.130.

The composition of Example 2 was compared for through-the-wash softness vs. an identical composition which did not contain the ditallowbenzamide/stearic acid premix (reference). The design of the test was such as to compare softness of textile pieces laundered 1 time (monocycle) and 4 times (multi-cycle) with invention and reference composition.

5 The testing conditions were as follows :

- automatic drum washing machine MIELE 423
- heating up from 15 °C to 60 °C ; 50' at 60 °C
- 1 % product concentration in wash liquor
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10 The washed and line dried swatches were compared by a panel of two expert judges, working independently, by a paired comparison technique using a 9-point Scheffe scale. Differences were recorded in panel score units (psu), positive being performancewise better and the least significant difference (LSD) at 95 % confidence was also calculated.

The testing results were as follows :

<u>Softness (Ex. 2 vs. Reference)</u>		
	1 cycle	4 cycles
20 Terry fabric (12)	+ 1.30 (0.48)*	+ 1.62 (0.71)*

* value between parentheses is LSD value (see text).

25 These results show the significant through-the-wash softness benefits derivable from the composition of Example 2.

30 Example 3

A low-P spray-dried detergent formulation is as follows :

Ingredients	Percent
35 Zeolite A (1-10 μ m)	26.0
Sodium nitrilotriacetate	5.0
Smectite clay *	3.0
Ditallow acetamide/stearic acid (10 : 1 wt ratio) **	5.0
40 C ₁₁ -C ₁₂ alkyl benzene sulfonate	6.5
Tallow ethoxylate (EO 9-11)	0.5
Sodium perborate 4H ₂ O ***	20
Tetraacetyl ethylenediamine (TAED) ***	3
Sodium silicate	8
45 CMC	1
Sodium sulfate	18
Enzymes (1 : 1 amylase/protease) *	1.5
Optical brightener	0.5
Water, minors	to 100

50 * As Gelwhite GP (TM) : CaCO₃ ion exchange capacity 70 meq/100 g

** Prepared as in Example 1

*** Dry-mixed with composition.

55 The composition of Example 3 is prepared by spray-drying in aqueous crutcher mix, in the manner described for Example 1. The composition of Example 3 provides better softness than the composition wherein the amide/stearic acid complexes have been replaced by additional sodium sulfate.

60 Claims

1. A detergent composition containing surfactants, a nitrogen-containing fabric softener and, if desired, detergent additives, characterized in that the nitrogen-containing softener is an amide having the
65 formula :

The composition of Example 2 was compared for through-the-wash softness vs. an identical composition which did not contain the ditallowbenzamide/stearic acid premix (reference). The design of the test was such as to compare softness of textile pieces laundered 1 time (monocycle) and 4 times (multi-cycle) with invention and reference composition.

The testing conditions were as follows :

- automatic drum washing machine MIELE 423
- heating up from 15 °C to 60 °C ; 50' at 60 °C
- 1 % product concentration in wash liquor
- 18 grains/gallon (0.31 g/l) water hardness (3 : 1 Ca/Mg ratio).

The washed and line dried swatches were compared by a panel of two expert judges, working independently, by a paired comparison technique using a 9-point Scheffe scale. Differences were recorded in panel score units (psu), positive being performancewise better and the least significant difference (LSD) at 95 % confidence was also calculated.

The testing results were as follows :

<u>Softness (Ex. 2 vs. Reference)</u>		
	1 cycle	4 cycles
Terry fabric (12)	+ 1.30 (0.48)*	+ 1.62 (0.71)*

* value between parentheses is LSD value (see text).

These results show the significant through-the-wash softness benefits derivable from the composition of Example 2.

Example 3

A low-P spray-dried detergent formulation is as follows :

Ingredients	Percent
Zeolite A (1-10 μ m)	26.0
Sodium nitrilotriacetate	5.0
Smectite clay *	3.0
Ditallow acetamide/stearic acid (10 : 1 wt ratio) **	5.0
C ₁₁ -C ₁₂ alkyl benzene sulfonate	6.5
Tallow ethoxylate (EO 9-11)	0.5
Sodium perborate 4H ₂ O ***	20
Tetraacetyl ethylenediamine (TAED) ***	3
Sodium silicate	8
CMC	1
Sodium sulfate	18
Enzymes (1 : 1 amylase/protease) *	1.5
Optical brightener	0.5
Water, minors	to 100

* As Gelwhite GP (TM) : CaCO₃ ion exchange capacity 70 meq/100 g

** Prepared as in Example 1

*** Dry-mixed with composition.

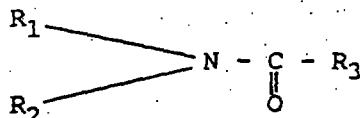
The composition of Example 3 is prepared by spray-drying in aqueous crutcher mix, in the manner described for Example 1. The composition of Example 3 provides better softness than the composition wherein the amide/stearic acid complexes have been replaced by additional sodium sulfate.

Claims

1. A detergent composition containing surfactants, a nitrogen-containing fabric softener and, if desired, deterative additives, characterized in that the nitrogen-containing softener is an amide having the formula :



(i)



wherein R_1 and R_2 are, selected independently, C_1 - C_{22} alk(en)yl, hydroxy-alkyl, heterocyclic or alkyl-substituted heterocyclic groups, R_3 is hydrogen, or a C_1 - C_{22} alk(en)yl, aryl, alkyl-aryl, heterocyclic or alkyl-substituted heterocyclic group, or a $O-R_4$, wherein R_4 is a C_1 - C_{22} alk(en)yl, aryl, alkyl-aryl, heterocyclic or alkyl-substituted heterocyclic group, R_3 and R_4 possibly containing 1 to 10 ethylene oxide units, or functional groups selected from hydroxy, amine, amide, ester, and ether groups; with the provisos that:

- at least one of the R_1 and R_2 groups contains 10 or more carbon atoms; and
 - the sum of carbon atoms in $R_1 + R_2 + R_3$ is equal to or greater than 14.
2. A composition in accordance with claim 1 wherein the amide softening agent is predispersed before being added to the rest of the composition with a dispersing agent selected from:
- nonionic surfactants resulting from the condensation of primary or secondary aliphatic alcohols;
 - phosphate esters having the formula



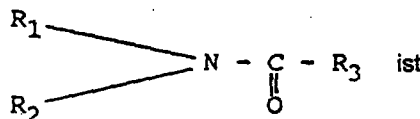
with $R' = C_{12}$ - C_{14} and $m = 1-5$;

- fatty acid having from 10 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl chain.
3. A composition in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the dispersing agent is a fatty acid having from 10 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl chain and is present in a weight ratio of amide softening agent to fatty acid of from 1:1 to 10:1.
4. A composition in accordance with Claims 1-3 wherein the sum of carbon atoms in R_1 and R_2 is greater than 16.
5. A composition in accordance with Claims 1-4, wherein R_3 is an alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or is an alkyl phenyl group containing up to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl chain.
6. A composition in accordance with Claims 1 to 5, wherein the amount of amide softening agent is from 0.1 % to 15 % by weight.
7. A composition in accordance with Claims 1 to 6 wherein the softening agent is: ditallow acetamide, ditallow benzamide, or dicoconut acetamide.
8. A composition in accordance with Claims 1 to 7 which in addition contains a peroxyacid bleaching compound.
9. A composition in accordance with Claim 8 wherein the peroxyacid bleaching compound is comprised of a peroxygen bleaching compound and an activator therefor.

Patentansprüche

1. Eine grenzflächenaktive Mittel, einen Stickstoff enthaltenden Textilweichmacher und gewünschtenfalls deterstive Zusätze enthaltende Detergensenzusammensetzung, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Stickstoff enthaltende Weichmacher ein Amid der Formel:

(i)



worin R_1 und R_2 unabhängig voneinander aus C_1 - C_{22} -Alk(en)yl-, Hydroxy-alkyl-, heterocyclischen oder Alkyl-substituierten heterocyclischen Gruppen ausgewählt sind, R_3 für Wasserstoff oder eine C_1 - C_{22} -Alk(en)yl-, Aryl-, Alkyl-aryl-, heterocyclische oder Alkyl-substituierte heterocyclische Gruppe steht oder $O-R_4$ ist, worin R_4 eine C_1 - C_{22} -Alk(en)yl-, Aryl-, Alkyl-aryl-, heterocyclische oder Alkyl-substituierte heterocyclische Gruppe darstellt, wobei R_3 und R_4 gegebenenfalls von 1 bis 10 Ethylenoxideinheiten oder funktionelle Gruppen, ausgewählt unter Hydroxy-, Amin-, Amid-, Ester- und Ethergruppen, enthalten; mit den Maßgaben, daß:

- mindestens eine der R_1 - und R_2 -Gruppen 10 oder mehr Kohlenstoffatome enthält; und
 - die Summe der Kohlenstoffatome in $R_1 + R_2 + R_3$ gleich oder größer als 14 ist.
2. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, worin der Amidweichmacher vor dem Zusetzen zum Rest der Zusammensetzung mit einem Dispergiemittel prädispergiert wird, welches ausgewählt ist unter:
- nichtionischen grenzflächenaktiven Mitteln, resultierend aus der Kondensation von primären oder sekundären aliphatischen Alkoholen;



— Phosphatester der Formel



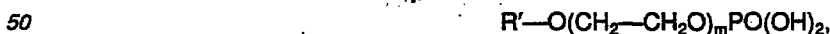
- 5 worin $R' = C_{12}-C_{14}$ ist und m einen Wert von 1-5 aufweist ;
 — Fettsäuren mit 10 bis 20 Kohlenstoffatomen in der Alkylkette.
 3. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 2, worin das Dispergiemittel eine Fettsäure mit 10 bis 20 Kohlenstoffatomen in der Alkylkette ist und in einem Gewichtsverhältnis von Amidweichmacher zu Fettsäure von 1 : 1 bis 10 : 1 vorliegt.
 10 4. Zusammensetzung nach den Ansprüchen 1 bis 3, worin die Summe der Kohlenstoffatome in R_1 und R_2 größer als 16 ist.
 5. Zusammensetzung nach den Ansprüchen 1 bis 4, worin R_3 eine Alkyl- oder Alkenylgruppe mit 1 bis 6 Kohlenstoffatomen oder eine Alkylphenylgruppe mit bis zu 4 Kohlenstoffatomen in der Alkylkette ist.
 6. Zusammensetzung nach den Ansprüchen 1 bis 5, worin die Menge an Amidweichmacher von 0,1
 15 Gew.-% bis 15 Gew.-% beträgt.
 7. Zusammensetzung nach den Ansprüchen 1 bis 6, worin der Weichmacher Ditalgacetamid, Ditalgbenzamid oder Dikokosnußacetamid ist.
 8. Zusammensetzung nach den Ansprüchen 1 bis 7, welche zusätzlich eine bleichende Peroxysäureverbindung enthält.
 20 9. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 8, worin sich die bleichende Peroxysäureverbindung aus einer bleichenden Persauerstoffverbindung und einem Aktivator hierfür zusammensetzt.

Revendications

- 25 1. Composition détergente contenant des tensioactifs, un assouplissant pour tissus azoté et, éventuellement, des additifs détersifs, caractérisée en ce que l'assouplissant azoté est un amide de formule :



- 35 dans laquelle R_1 et R_2 sont, choisis indépendamment, des groupes alkyle ou alcényle, hydroxyalkyle, hétérocycliques ou hétérocycliques alkylés en C_1-C_{22} , R_3 est un hydrogène ou un groupe alkyle ou alcényle, aryle, alkylaryle, hétérocyclique ou hétérocyclique alkylé en C_1-C_{22} , ou bien $O-R_4$, dans lequel
 40 R_4 est un groupe alkyle ou alcényle, aryle, alkylaryle, hétérocyclique ou hétérocyclique alkylé en C_1-C_{22} , R_3 et R_4 contenant éventuellement 1 à 10 motifs oxyde d'éthylène, ou des groupes fonctionnels choisis parmi les groupes hydroxy, amine, amide, ester et éther ; à condition que :
 — l'un au moins de groupes R_1 et R_2 contienne 10 atomes de carbone ou plus ; et
 — la somme des atomes de carbone dans $R_1 + R_2 + R_3$ soit égale ou supérieure à 14.
 2. Composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle l'agent assouplissant amide est prédispersé
 45 avant d'être ajouté au reste de la composition avec un agent dispersant choisi parmi :
 — les tensioactifs non ioniques provenant de la condensation d'alcools aliphatiques primaires ou secondaires ;
 — les esters phosphates de formule :



avec $R' = C_{12}-C_{14}$ et $m = 1-5$;

- un acide gras comportant de 10 à 20 atomes de carbone dans la chaîne alkyle.
 3. Composition selon la revendication 2, dans laquelle l'agent dispersant est un acide gras
 55 comportant de 10 à 20 atomes de carbone dans la chaîne alkyle et est présent dans un rapport pondéral de l'agent assouplissant amide à l'acide gras de 1 : 1 à 10 : 1.
 4. Composition selon les revendications 1-3, dans laquelle la somme des atomes de carbone dans R_1 et R_2 est supérieure à 16.
 5. Composition selon les revendications 1-4, dans laquelle R_3 est un groupe alkyle ou alcényle
 60 contenant de 1 à 6 atomes de carbone ou est un groupe alkylphényle contenant jusqu'à 4 atomes de carbone dans la chaîne alkyle.
 6. Composition selon les revendications 1 à 5, dans laquelle la quantité d'agents assouplissants amide est de 0,1 % à 15 % en poids.
 7. Composition selon les revendications 1 à 6, dans laquelle l'agent assouplissant est : le disulf-
 65 acétamide, le disulf-benzamide ou le dinoix de coco-acétamide.



8. Composition selon les revendications 1 à 7, qui contient en outre un composé de blanchiment de type peracide.

9. Composition selon la revendication 8, dans laquelle le composé de blanchiment de type peracide est constitué d'un composé de blanchiment peroxygéné et d'un activateur de ce composé.

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