

(19)



(11)

EP 1 889 900 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:

20.02.2008 Bulletin 2008/08

(51) Int Cl.:

C11D 3/00 (2006.01) **C11D 3/37** (2006.01)

C11D 3/386 (2006.01) **C11D 3/39** (2006.01)

C11D 17/04 (2006.01) **C11D 3/33** (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **07113949.7**

(22) Date of filing: **07.08.2007**

(84) Designated Contracting States:

**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE
SI SK TR**

Designated Extension States:

AL BA HR MK YU

• **Orlandini, Francesco Maurizio**

26845 Codogno (Lodi) (IT)

• **Meregalli, Raffaella**

20033 Desio (Milano) (IT)

• **Curi, Paola**

22034 Brunate (Como) (IT)

(30) Priority: **08.08.2006 IT MI20061598**

(71) Applicant: **Bolton Manitoba SpA**

20124 Milano (IT)

(74) Representative: **De Gregori, Antonella et al**

Ing. Barzano' & Zanardo Milano S.p.A.

Via Borgonuovo 10

20121 Milano (IT)

(72) Inventors:

• **Agostini, Andrea**

20121 Milano (IT)

(54) **Detergence article**

(57) A detergence article is described, comprising a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, irreversibly impregnated with a dye scavenger component, and containing at least one component in the form of a powder or gel, consisting of a detergent and/or additive component. The

invention also relates to a process for obtaining a detergence article and its use for washing by hand or in a washing-machine.

EP 1 889 900 A1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a detergent article.

[0002] In the field of detergent products, the necessity is increasingly felt for using products which are not only effective in removing dirt, but also have, coupled with a cleaning action, a further action which can be, for example, a bleaching action, a dye-scavenging action, an anticalcareous action.

[0003] In other words, the demand has considerably increased for multi-application and/or multi-effect products which are consequently versatile and allow various results to be obtained contemporaneously.

[0004] One of the problems which arises in the washing of "coloured" items, for example, is the release of a certain quantity of colour in the washing water: this leads to the necessity of washing coloured clothes separately from "white" garments to prevent the latter from becoming partially or totally coloured.

[0005] This problem was previously solved by washing "coloured" items separately from "white" garments and/or using low-temperature washing programs. It is not always possible however to avoid a partial or total colouring of the white clothes washed together with coloured items.

[0006] Another particularly important problem, especially in areas in which the water current is particularly hard, is the formation of encrustations of limestone on the internal surfaces of the washing-machine.

[0007] Water hardness is the quantity of alkaline-earth metal salts, in particular calcium and magnesium bicarbonates and sulphates, present in solution in the water. Water is defined as being medium-hard if it has a limestone content (calcium carbonate) of 150 to 250 mg/l (15-25 °F), whereas it is considered hard if the limestone content is higher than 250 mg/l (from 25 °F).

[0008] With time, medium-hard or hard water deposits a layer of limestone on the internal surfaces of washing-machines which, if not periodically eliminated, can cause blockage of the water discharge, malfunctioning of the washing-machine components etc., with consequent breakage of the household appliance and/or huge water losses.

[0009] In addition, over a period of time, the presence of a high quantity of calcium and magnesium salts dissolved in the water causes damage to the washed clothes and to the environment. Calcium and magnesium salts, in fact, partially neutralize the action of detergents, causing an overdose of the detergent itself, a higher cost and greater environmental pollution. The damages caused to the washed clothes is due to the microdeposit of limestone in the fibres which causes a reduction in the softness of the garment, favouring its precocious deterioration.

[0010] In order to avoid the above problems, suitable quantities of an anticalcareous agent are normally added to the detergent, in the same container, which is usually in the form of a powder or tablet or liquid.

[0011] The market is becoming more and more oriented towards supported detergent products and/or additives for detergent, or the like. The presence of a carrier does in fact allow a greater facility of use for the final user, which is linked to a simpler dosage of the product and also a more convenient form of application.

[0012] The use of carriers pre-impregnated and/or containing the detergent avoids problems associated with an excessive or limited dosage, accidental leakages of the product, etc.

[0013] The field of detergent products containing premeasured quantities of detergent and/or other functional washing additives is consequently rapidly developing.

[0014] Attempts have been in the state of the art to obtain this result with different approaches. A first approach consists of the use of carriers in the form of sachets or fabric, impregnated, laminated or covered with a layer of detergent and/or additive, not soluble in water. The possibilities of formulation for this type of article also depend on requisites of an aesthetic nature, as the carrier obviously cannot be impregnated over certain values as the end-product must not be wet or sticky. The article on the other hand should neither be too hard or fragile, to allow its easy use for the user. The second type of approach envisages the use of carriers soluble in water.

[0015] In the range of detergent products, the production of a detergent article which combines both the effect linked to the presence of a dye scavenger agent, and possibly an anticalcareous agent or bleaching agent and also a detergent component, is of particular interest: an article which therefore totally eliminates the colour present in the washing water, but which, at the same time, together with washing the clothes, can also obtain a water-softening action and a bleaching action of the clothes.

[0016] The combination of these components, however, is difficult to obtain for various reasons, the most important of which is that the additive or bleaching agent often tends to make the detergent component inactive, or in any case the various dye-scavenger, anticalcareous, bleaching and/or detergent components can interact with each other during storage before use, making it necessary to adopt particular enzymes or stabilizing systems, due to the oxidizing environment.

[0017] The Applicant has now surprisingly found a detergent article which overcomes the drawbacks of the known art.

[0018] An object of the present invention therefore relates to a detergent article comprising a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, irreversibly impregnated with a dye scavenger component, and containing at least one component in the form of a powder or gel consisting of a detergent component and/or an additive component, wherein the dye scavenger component is a cationic heterocyclic polymer obtained by the polymerization of epichlorohydrin and imidazole and wherein the detergent component consists of sodium dodecylbenzenesulpho-

nate, polyethoxylated alcohol 7moles EO, and vegetable soaps.

[0019] A further object of the present invention relates to the use of a detergent article comprising a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, irreversibly impregnated with a dye scavenger component and containing at least one component in the form of a powder or gel, consisting of a detergent component and/or an additive component, wherein the dye scavenger component is a cationic heterocyclic polymer obtained by the polymerization of epichlorohydrin and imidazole and wherein the detergent component consists of sodium dodecylbenzenesulfonate, polyethoxylated alcohol 7moles EO, and vegetable soaps, for washing by hand or in washing-machines.

[0020] The detergent article according to the present invention preferably comprises a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, also reversibly impregnated with an anticalcareous component. The anticalcareous component, or water-softening additive or sequestering additive of calcium and magnesium ions is preferably an EDTA salt (ethylenediaminetetracetic acid).

[0021] The additive or additive component is preferably a bleaching additive selected from TAED-percarbonate and PAP. TAED-percarbonate is preferred.

[0022] The carrier exerts the function of carrying the dye scavenger, anticalcareous, detergent component and/or the additive.

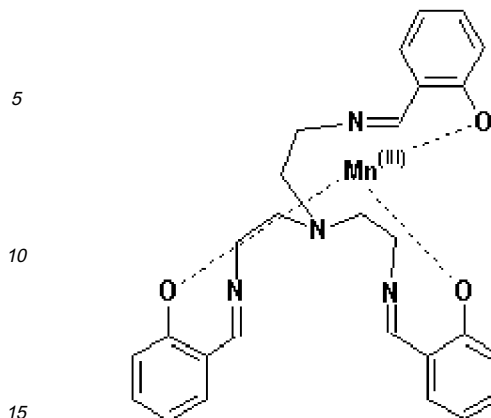
[0023] In particular, when the component is in the form of a powder or gel, it comprises both the detergent component and the additive component, the detergent component is present in a quantity ranging from 1 to 50% by weight, preferably from 5 to 40%, even more preferably from 10 to 30%, with respect to the total weight of the component in the form of a powder or gel.

[0024] The detergent component of the article according to the present invention can also comprise enzymes as further detergent agents.

[0025] The enzymes present in the detergent component according to the present invention are selected from amylase, protease, cellulase and mixtures thereof. They are present in the detergent composition in a quantity varying from 0.1 to 4% by weight, preferably from 0.5 to 2% by weight with respect to the total weight of the component in powder- or gel-form.

[0026] The detergent component of the article according to the present invention can also comprise phosphonates, polycarboxylates, cmc, zeolites, optical bleaches, soaps, antifoam agents, perfumes, etc.

[0027] The TAED-percarbonate is preferably used together with a catalyst which has the following chemical formula:



a manganese-based oxygen-releasing catalyst (commercialized under the trade-name of Tinocat TRS KB2).

[0028] These additives are characterized by exerting an effective bleaching action already at water temperatures ranging from 20°C to 60°C, consequently allowing a considerable energy saving with respect to bleaching additives which require higher temperatures for eliminating various kinds of stains and exerting a bleaching action.

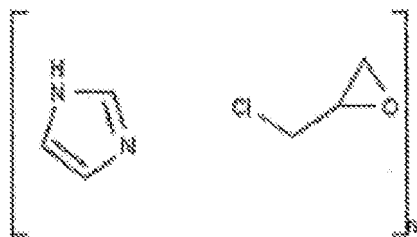
[0029] In particular, when the component in powder- or gel-form comprises both the detergent component and the additive component, the bleaching agent i.e. the additive component is present in the article according to the present invention in a quantity ranging from 1 to 60% by weight, more preferably from 5 to 50% by weight, even more preferably from 8 to 40% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the component in the form of a powder or gel.

[0030] In particular, when the detergent article according to the present invention has a quantity of surface-active agent which is higher than the bleaching agent, the article according to the present invention is a detergent product to be used directly as sole detergent agent.

[0031] When the quantity of bleaching agent is greater than the quantity of surface-active agent, the article according to the present invention is a bleaching product to be used as additive combined with a further detergent product.

[0032] The dye scavenger additive which removes colour is a substance which has a very high affinity for dyes. The dye released in the washing water of "coloured" clothes must in fact have a greater affinity for the dye scavenger additive of the present invention than for "white" fabrics.

[0033] In particular, the cationic heterocyclic polymer having the formula



belongs to the group of cationic heterocyclic polymers produced by the synthesis of epichlorohydrin and imidazole and is identified with the number CAS 68797-57-9.

[0034] The colour-removing additive can be advantageously prepared in solution with a base, preferably a strong base such as NaOH, and water. This solution is particularly suitable for the application of the additive with techniques used in the dyeing industry.

[0035] The dye scavenger component is irreversibly impregnated in the article according to the present invention in a quantity ranging from 1 to 6% by weight, more preferably from 2 to 5% by weight, even more preferably from 3 to 4% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the carrier.

[0036] The anticalcareous additive, or water-softening additive or sequestering additive of calcium and magnesium ions is an EDTA salt (ethylenediaminetetracetic acid). The sequestering agent, for example, is used in a quantity specifically for leaving a weight on the carrier ranging from 5 to 100 g/m² referring to the dry carrier, preferably from 7 to 50 g/m², more preferably about 10 g/m².

[0037] In order to allow the sequestering additive to be applied to the substrate made of non-woven fabric, for example by means of a serigraphic process, the compound also comprises a polyurethane, acrylic or natural thickening agent. The thickening agent can also be used in quantities ranging from 5% to 100% with respect to the quantity of sequestering agent, preferably from 20% to 80%, more preferably about 50%. The specific quantity and type of thickening agent are obviously selected by experts in the field according to the type of application, the pre-established regulations of the machine and preselected substrate. The preferred natural thickening agent is Guaro IDALCA flour of Lamberti SpA.

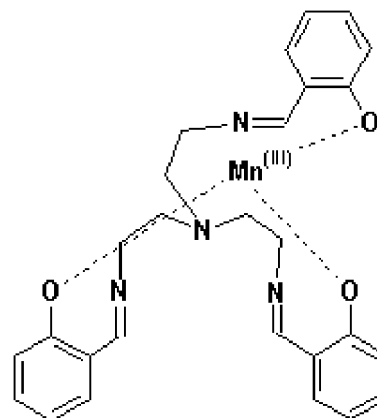
[0038] When the sequestering agent is used in a combination with the thickening agent, as already mentioned, a viscous compound is obtained, which is preferably stabilized with a dispersant which is acrylic-based for example. The quantity of use of this substance can range from 5% to 50% with respect to the quantity of sequestering product, preferably from 7% to 20%, more preferably about 10%.

[0039] In addition, the softening compound can comprise a binder. The binder is any substance capable of cohesion on the substrate of non-woven fabric. In other words, the binder strengthens the substrate to prevent

the washing cycles of a washing-machine from ruining the structure of the non-woven fabric. In particular, modern washing-machines have extremely forced washing cycles, and especially centrifuge cycles. These cause a rapid deterioration of fabrics in general and in particular a spunlaced substrate, a versatile product due to its softness, feel, colour-binding capacity. The spunlaced substrate can in fact fray, releasing fibres in the washing water which become attached to the clothes being washed, with imaginable consequences.

[0040] The binder can be a resin such as, for example, an acrylic, vinyl, polyurethane or natural resin. The binder can also be a natural or synthetic latex. The quantity of use of the cohesion agent can vary from 5% to 100% of the sequestering product, preferably from 7 to 50%, more preferably about 10%.

[0041] The preferred article according to the present invention comprises a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, in the form of a pocket, sachet or sandwich, irreversibly impregnated with a dye scavenger component consisting of a cationic heterocyclic component obtained by polymerization of epichlorohydrin and imidazole, and optionally reversibly impregnated with an anticalcareous component or sequestering agent of calcium and magnesium ions which is an EDTA salt, and containing a component in the form of a powder or gel, consisting of a detergent component consisting of sodium dodecylbenzenesulphonate, polyethoxylated alcohol 7moles E0, and vegetable soaps, and/or a bleaching additive component consisting of TAED-percarbonate and a catalyst which has the following chemical formula:



a manganese-based oxygen-releasing catalyst.

[0042] In particular, the carrier of the article according to the present invention is flexible, non-soluble in water, solid or substantially solid.

[0043] The carrier can be with a single layer or multi-layered, it can have any dimension and preferably has the form of a sachet or pocket.

[0044] It can have a dense or open structure and examples of material suitable for the carrier of the article

according to the present invention are porous sheets, sponges, paper, fabric and/or non-woven fabric. Included in the scope of the present invention are substrates characterized by an absorption capacity range, thickness, density of the fibres, which are such as to guarantee the wet carrier a sufficient resistance for maintaining its structural integrity until the complete washing cycle and/or cycle of use has been completed.

[0045] The carrier is preferably a woven fabric or non-woven fabric. The woven fabric or non-woven fabric are natural and/or synthetic. The carrier can be any carrier of the cellulose type such as paper, a natural material such as cotton or a synthetic material.

[0046] The carrier is preferably a natural and/or synthetic non-woven fabric, more preferably a synthetic non-woven fabric.

[0047] Non-woven fabrics which can be conveniently used are spunlaced, spunbonded, thermobonded, airlaid non-woven fabrics, where said terms spunlaced, spunbonded, thermobonded, airlaid indicate both non-woven fabrics and the techniques used for obtaining them, well-known in the art.

[0048] The fibres preferably used for obtaining these non-woven fabrics are polyester (PE) fibres, polypropylene (PP) fibres, polylactic (PLA) fibres, polyethylenesulfone (PES) fibres, acrylic polymers, regenerated cellulose, polyamide fibres, cotton, viscose or mixtures thereof. The carrier can also consist of 100% regenerated cellulose, for example: lyocell® (i.e. regenerated cellulose fibre, obtained with a dissolution and spinning process in an organic solvent) or tencell®.

[0049] The carrier preferably has a weight ranging from 150 g/m² to 50 g/m², more preferably from 100 g/m² to 60 g/m². The fibres of the carrier preferably have dimensions ranging from 0.5 dtex to 5 dtex, preferably from 1 dtex to 2 dtex.

[0050] As mentioned above, the carrier of the article according to the present invention can be dense or it can have an open cell structure and therefore have a high volume of empty spaces which represent the space of the carrier which is not occupied.

[0051] Substrates consisting of multilayer paper structures, for example, comprise layers having protuberances, whose ends are melted and welded. This paper structure has empty spaces between the protuberant portions of the folds, as also between the same fibres of the layers of paper. A non-woven fabric also has these empty spaces between the fibres. The empty spaces in the carrier can be varied by modifying the density of the fibres of the carrier. In general, substrates with a high quantity of empty space have a low fibre density, whereas substrates with a low quantity of empty space have a high fibre density.

[0052] The carrier is selected so as to have a sufficient charge capacity with the components of the detergent article according to the present invention. The correct charge can be determined in relation to the dimensions of the final carrier sheet and quantity of components to

be released. There are no particular limitations in the dimensions. Non-woven fabrics with high charge capacities generally also have higher costs and consequently this aspect must also be taken into account in selecting the most suitable carrier.

[0053] In particular, the dye scavenger additive and/or anticalcareous additive are applied on the substrate of non-woven fabric, irreversibly or reversibly respectively, by means of known application methods such as, for example, impregnation, spreading or printing, as described in detail in patent applications MI2006A000096 and MI2006A000999, whose contents should be considered an integrating part of the present patent application.

[0054] The detergent component in powder- or gel-form and/or the additive, preferably a bleaching agent, in powder- or gel-form, are entrapped between two sandwich-coupled layers of carrier, or the carrier in the form of a pocket or sachet.

[0055] The preferred detergent article according to the present invention comprises a carrier of non-woven fabric in spunlaced regenerated cellulose and at least one thermoweldable polymer, to which the cationic heterocyclic polymer, which has a dye scavenging function is irreversibly fixed and possibly the sequestering agent, i.e. an EDTA salt, which has a water-softening function, is reversibly fixed, said carrier being in the form of a pocket and containing in its interior the detergent component and/or the bleaching additive component in the form of a powder or gel.

[0056] The present invention also relates to a process for the preparation of a detergent article according to the present invention.

[0057] A further object of the present invention therefore relates to a process for the preparation of a detergent article comprising a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, irreversibly impregnated with a dye scavenger component, and containing at least one detergent component and/or an additive in the form of a powder or gel.

[0058] Said process comprises the following passages:

- a) selecting a carrier comprising one of the following materials: natural and/or synthetic woven fabric, natural and/or synthetic non-woven fabric and paper;
- b) applying at least one dye scavenger additive to the carrier;
- c) drying the semi-processed carrier, if necessary;
- d) optionally applying at least one anticalcareous additive on the semi-processed carrier obtained with passage c);
- e) drying the carrier, if necessary;
- f) inserting the detergent component and/or bleaching additive in the form of a powder or gel, inside the carrier in the form of a pocket or sachet.

[0059] Steps b) and d) can be inverted.

[0060] The detergent article according to the present invention is normally inserted in conventional or profes-

sional washing-machines before the beginning of the washing cycle.

[0061] The combined action of the substrate and polymer, which both have a high affinity for pigments, allows the colour present in the washing water to be much more effectively removed than with the known products in the art.

[0062] The double "dye-scavenging" and "anticalcareous" function of the product of the invention is extremely convenient. With a single action, in fact, the double effect is obtained of protecting "white" clothes from the possible colour loss of darker fabrics together with the efficient functioning of the washing-machine with constant use.

[0063] The result of this is a higher practicality of use especially for people who do not have much time to dedicate to household chores and who, in this way, can wash "white" and "coloured" clothes together, without having to worry about or remember to add the anticalcareous additive. It has been experimentally demonstrated, in fact, that the product of the invention, if used regularly, has the same anticalcareous efficacy as conventional additives.

[0064] The preparation process of the detergent article according to the present invention is extremely rapid as it can be effected in continuous and has a limited number of steps. This leads to a considerable saving of time and energy. The final material is in fact obtained in the order of minutes as the "dye scavenger" additive almost instantaneously irreversibly binds itself to the substrate and it is not necessary to leave it to rest for hours (to ensure that the additive is absorbed on the substrate) as in the processes of the known art. All this is made possible by the use of the "dye scavenger" additives of the present invention which have an extremely high affinity for the substrate and are practically instantaneously absorbed in an effective quantity. Furthermore, the subsequent printing and drying steps are also extremely rapid.

[0065] When the washing cycle starts, the thickening agent or detergent dissolves in water possibly also releasing the bleaching agent which, dissolved in water, exerts its function of bleaching and whitening, whereas the detergent exerts its detergent function.

[0066] The number of sheets of the detergent article according to the present invention which are used for each washing cycle depends on the weight of the laundry and its dirtiness.

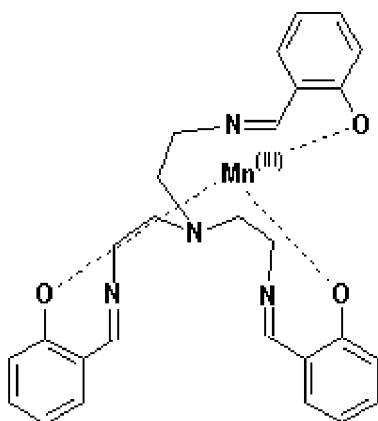
[0067] "Coloured" and "white" clothes can therefore be washed contemporaneously in washing-machines in the presence of the detergent article according to the present invention which acts as a "dye scavenger", at the same time exerting a softening action of hard water, replacing or being integrated with conventional anticalcareous additives.

Claims

1. A detergent article comprising a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, irreversibly impregnated with a dye scavenger component, and containing at least one component in the form of a powder or gel, consisting of a detergent and/or additive component, wherein the dye scavenger component is a cationic heterocyclic polymer obtained by polymerization of epichlorohydrin and imidazole and wherein the detergent component consists of sodium dodecylbenzenesulphonate, polyethoxylated alcohol 7moles EO, and vegetable soaps.
2. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the carrier is also reversibly impregnated with an anticalcareous component.
3. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the additive component is a bleaching additive.
4. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the detergent component is present in a quantity ranging from 1 to 50% by weight, preferably from 5 to 40%, even more preferably from 10 to 30%, with respect to the total weight of the component in the form of a powder or gel.
5. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** it also comprises enzymes as further detergent agents.
6. The article according to claim 5, **characterized in that** the enzyme is selected from amylase, protease, cellulase and mixtures thereof.
7. The article according to claim 5, **characterized in that** the enzyme is present in the detergent component in a quantity ranging from 0.1 to 4% by weight, preferably from 0.5 to 2% by weight with respect to the total weight of the component in powder- or gel-form.
8. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** it also comprises phosphonates, polycarboxylates, cmc, zeolites, optical bleaches, soaps, vegetable soaps, antifoam agents, perfumes.
9. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the bleaching additive is a compound selected from TAED-percarbonate (tetra-acetylenediamine) and PAP (phthalimidoperoxyhexanoic acid).
10. The article according to claim 9, **characterized in that** the bleaching additive is TAED-percarbonate.
11. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the additive component or bleaching agent is

present in a quantity ranging from 1 to 60% by weight, preferably from 5 to 50% by weight, even more preferably from 8 to 40% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the component in powder- or gel-form.

12. The article according to claim 10, **characterized in that** the TAED-percarbonate is used together with a catalyst which has the following chemical formula:



a manganese-based oxygen-releasing catalyst.

13. The article according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the anticalcareous component or sequestering agent of calcium and magnesium ions is selected from EDTA salts.
14. The article according to claim 13, **characterized in that** the EDTA salt is present in a quantity ranging from 5 to 100 g/m² of dry carrier.
15. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the dye scavenger component is present in a quantity ranging from 1 to 6% by weight, more preferably from 2 to 5% by weight, even more preferably from 3 to 4% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the carrier.
16. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the carrier is flexible, non-soluble in water, solid or substantially solid.
17. The article according to claim 16, **characterized in that** the carrier is single-layered or multilayered, in any dimension, in the form of a sachet or pocket.
18. The article according to claim 16, **characterized in that** the carrier is selected from porous sheets, sponges, paper, woven and/or non-woven fabric.
19. The article according to claim 16, **characterized in that** the carrier is a natural and/or synthetic woven or non-woven fabric.

20. The article according to claim 16, **characterized in that** the carrier is a synthetic spunlaced, spunbonded, thermobonded, airlaid non-woven fabric.

21. The article according to claim 20, **characterized in that** the carrier made of a non-woven fabric is based on polyester (PE) fibres, polypropylene (PP) fibres, polylactic (PLA) fibres, polyethylenesulfone (PES) fibres, acrylic polymers, regenerated cellulose, polyamidic fibres, cotton, viscose or mixtures thereof, 100% regenerated cellulose.

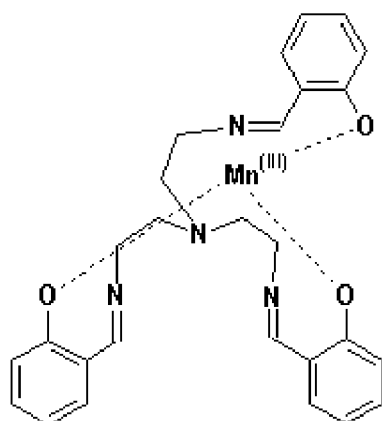
22. The article according to claim 16, **characterized in that** the carrier has a weight ranging from 150 g/m² to 50 g/m², preferably from 100 g/m² to 60 g/m².

23. The article according to claim 16, **characterized in that** the fibres of the carrier have dimensions ranging from 0.5 dtex to 5 dtex, preferably from 1 dtex to 2 dtex.

24. The article according to claim 16, **characterized in that** it comprises a multilayered carrier wherein the detergent component in powder- or gel-form and the bleaching agent in powder- or gel-form are entrapped between two layers of the sandwich-coupled carrier.

25. The article according to claim 16, **characterized in that** it comprises a pocket or sachet containing the detergent component and the additive component.

26. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** it comprises a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, in the form of a pocket, sachet or sandwich, irreversibly impregnated with a dye scavenger component consisting of a cationic heterocyclic component obtained by polymerization from epichlorohydrin and imidazole, and optionally reversibly impregnated with an anticalcareous component or sequestering agent of calcium and magnesium ions which is an EDTA salt, and containing a component in the form of a powder or gel, consisting of a detergent component consisting of sodium dodecylbenzenesulphonate, polyethoxylated alcohol 7moles EO, and vegetable soaps, and/or a bleaching additive component consisting of TAED-percarbonate and a catalyst which has the following chemical formula:



5

10

15

least one component in the form of a powder or gel, consisting of a detergent additive and/or an additive component, wherein the dye scavenger component is a cationic heterocyclic polymer obtained by polymerization of epichlorohydrin and imidazole and wherein the detergent component consists of sodium dodecylbenzenesulphonate, polyethoxylated alcohol 7moles EO, and vegetable soaps, for washing by hand or in washing-machines.

30. Use of an article according to any of the claims from 2 to 27 for washing by hand or in washing-machines.

a manganese-based oxygen-releasing catalyst.

27. The article according to claim 1, **characterized in that** it comprises a carrier of non-woven fabric in spunlaced regenerated cellulose and at least one thermoweldable polymer, to which the cationic heterocyclic polymer is irreversibly fixed and possibly the sequestering agent is reversibly fixed, said carrier being in the form of a pocket and containing in its interior the detergent component and/or the bleaching additive component in the form of a powder or gel.
28. A process for the preparation of a detergence article comprising a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, irreversibly impregnated with a dye scavenger component, and containing at least one component in the form of a powder or gel, consisting of a detergent additive and/or an additive component, **characterized in that** it comprises the following passages:
- a) selecting a carrier comprising one of the following materials: natural and/or synthetic woven fabric, natural and/or synthetic non-woven fabric and paper;
 - b) applying at least one dye scavenger additive to the carrier;
 - c) drying the semi-processed carrier, if necessary;
 - d) optionally applying at least one anticalcareous additive on the semi-processed carrier obtained with passage c);
 - e) drying the carrier, if necessary;
 - f) inserting the detergent component and/or bleaching additive in the form of a powder or gel, inside the carrier in the form of a pocket or sachet.
29. Use of a detergence article comprising a flexible carrier, non-soluble in water, irreversibly impregnated with a dye scavenger component, and containing at

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 11 3949

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2003/118730 A1 (AOUAD YOUSEF GEORGES [US] ET AL) 26 June 2003 (2003-06-26) * paragraphs [0085], [0086], [0092], [0105], [0107], [0113], [0126], [0127]; claims 1,1618,20,24,33; figures 1,2,6; examples 3,4,7,9 *	1,2,8, 16, 18-22, 29,30	INV. C11D3/00 C11D3/37 C11D3/386 C11D3/39 C11D17/04 C11D3/33
X	WO 01/32973 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE [US]) 10 May 2001 (2001-05-10) * claims 1,7,11; example 1; table 1 *	28	
X	EP 1 170 356 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE [US]) 9 January 2002 (2002-01-09) * paragraphs [0011], [0013], [0021], [0022], [0047] - [0049], [0072], [0080] - [0082], [0094], [0098], [0128] - [0136], [0148] - [0176]; claims 1-6,10,13-15; examples C,D *	28	
Y		1-8,11, 15-23, 25-27, 29,30	
Y	EP 1 621 604 A (ORLANDI SPA [IT]) 1 February 2006 (2006-02-01) * paragraphs [0019], [0034] - [0037]; claims 1-12 *	1-8,11, 15-23, 25-27, 29,30	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) C11D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 1 November 2007	Examiner LOISELET-TAISNE, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

 2
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 07 11 3949

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

01-11-2007

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003118730 A1	26-06-2003	NONE	
WO 0132973 A	10-05-2001	AU 1243501 A	14-05-2001
		BR 0015143 A	25-06-2002
		CN 1402802 A	12-03-2003
		EP 1224348 A1	24-07-2002
		JP 2003513686 T	15-04-2003
		MX PA02004215 A	17-10-2002
		US 2003004082 A1	02-01-2003
		US 6410496 B1	25-06-2002
EP 1170356 A	09-01-2002	AR 029579 A1	02-07-2003
		AU 7303901 A	21-01-2002
		JP 2004502614 T	29-01-2004
		WO 0204582 A2	17-01-2002
		US 2002055449 A1	09-05-2002
EP 1621604 A	01-02-2006	NONE	