

The pH Scale

pH is the measurement of free hydrogen-ion concentration in an aqueous fluid – it uses a scale of 0 (the most acidic) to 14 (the most basic or alkaline) with 7 as Neutral (pure water.) Each number on the scale is a power of 10 – so, for example, 12 is 100 times more basic than 9. **pH** is important because the extremes of the scale can cause issues for **human health** (need for protective glasses, gloves, & respirators,) **environmental safety** (issues with safe storage & disposal,) and **material compatibility** (the potential to damage assets.) While it is sometimes necessary to utilize aggressive acids or bases in certain processes, general cleaning and degreasing typically should not require use of extreme **pH** products. Simple Green is mildly basic, where many competitors are more severely basic/alkaline and can incur costly disposal and health-protection requirements, or cause asset degradation.

