

Use these methods at your own risk! These methods use hazardous chemicals including strong acid. Read and follow the MSDS before handling any of the chemicals. Wear protective gloves, safety glasses, and protective aprons or clothing at all times when using these solutions. The fumes from the acid are hazardous to breathe, and corrosive to iron, steel, copper, and other metals that may be in the vicinity. Use with adequate ventilation. Use glass, plastic, or stainless steel containers only for the chemicals. Keep away from open flames since explosive hydrogen gas may be produced.

These methods have been used for 300 series stainless steel without any visible damage to the base metal. The improved method has been used for 6061 series aluminum with slight etching of the aluminum. Either method may be suitable for some types of plastic, but verify that the acid will not harm the plastic before use. Neither method is suitable for steel, brass, copper, or other metals that would be etched or dissolved by the acid.