

Declaration on the use of nanomaterials at Kärcher

Nanoparticles are solid particles with a size of less than 100 nanometres (nm). The prefix nano refers to a scale of billionths, in other words a nanometre is a billionth of a metre or a millionth of a millimetre.

Nanotechnology is concerned with structures which are typically between 1 and 100 nm in size (source: Swiss Federal Office of Public Health).

There are many and varied ways in which nanomaterial can be used. In certain applications nanomaterials offer the prospect of benefits for mankind and for the environment. However, the possible risks inherent in nanomaterials have not yet been conclusively researched. Kärcher has consequently issued the following declaration:

1. We are committed to the responsible use of nanomaterials.
2. We actively seek out information on the opportunities and risks inherent in nanomaterials and ensure that our knowledge reflects the latest findings.
3. The use of nanomaterials must be approved by the central Kärcher material laboratory in Winnenden.
4. Nanomaterials are only used in Kärcher products where this entails no hazard for our employees, our customers and the environment, and its use provides added value for our products and our customers.
5. Our suppliers are obliged to inform us about the use of nanomaterial.
6. We openly communicate any information in relation to the use of nanomaterials in our products.

Winnenden, July 2010