

Alkali	Cleanses the plate. Does not cause plate oxidation or roller or blanket glazing. Can cause ink saponification and emulsion formation.
Anti foaming agents	Reduction of foam in fountain.
Anti-fungicides	Prevention of growth of fungi, algae and bacteria in fountain systems. A very important component in order to avoid a number of problems. Phenol and hydroxyquinoline have been used but more modern, and effective chemicals are now available although at some cost.
Cellulose Gum	Similar desensitiser to gum arabic but can be used over a wider range of pH. Similar problems to gum arabic but not so significant.
Corrosion inhibitors	Work physically or chemically, leaving a protective layer on exposed metal surfaces. Costly.
Desensitisers	A wide range of chemical compounds may be desensitisers, including many film formers such as gum arabic. These compounds react with non-image areas to increase their hydrophilic nature. They may be acids, alkalies or neutral salts which are capable of reacting with aluminium oxide - e.g. fluorides, phosphates, nitrates or organic compounds such as phosphate esters and citrates.
Glycerine	Wetting agent, also gives some plate protection during press stoppages.
Glycol or wax emulsion	To improve blanket release characteristics and thus reduce piling.
Gum arabic	A film forming agent and desensitiser rendering oleophilic areas of the non-image area, hydrophilic. Also provides some plate protection during stoppages. It is gum arabic's properties of being very water soluble, forming a non-porous film and bonding well to aluminium oxide that make it suitable for this job. Can cause image blindness, roller stripping, glazing of rollers and blankets. It is not compatible with isopropanol. Its use is being phased out.
Humectants	A group of compounds which may be considered as non-drying, for example, glycols or polymeric surfactants. Humectants have a similar job to film formers but utilise a different principle in that they leave a thin wet film on the plate during press stops.