

Soap-powder secret

Scientists at Unilever have revealed the secret behind their ingredient which sparked a legal wrangle in Europe's £6 billion soap-powder industry

Hydrogen peroxide: bleach used in most washing powders is only effective at 60°C or above

Peroxyacetic acid: works at 40°C

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Secret ingredient: Manganese compounds accelerate the effect of hydrogen peroxide – allowing washes at lower temperature

