

## Re: Yellow/green color of acetone and MEK

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**From:** Steve Turner (*spam\_at\_spam.net*)

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On 20 Nov 2004 12:30:36 -0800, "Wilco Oelen" <photo@woelen.nl> wrote:

>Thanks, you all, for the replies. I did not even think of the bottle  
>caps. I also cleaned these, but of course, these may slowly react with  
>acetone or MEK. Probably this is the answer to my question and this may  
>also explain why the MEK in the original bottle still is colorless.  
>  
>What kind of caps is suitable for this kind of liquids? Apparently the  
>caps must be selected with great care.

In my experience, it is common for contaminants to "hide" underneath the cap liner -- between the liner and the cap itself. Because you can't see these materials, you can accidentally use what is effectively a "dirty" cap. For that reason, I never re-use bottle caps.

A type of cap used commonly in the U.S. is called "poly seal." This is a standard Bakelite cap with a conical polyethylene insert. These seal better than flat liners, especially after many re-closings of the bottle, which can tend to compress a flat liner and remove its elasticity. These types of caps are inert to common organic solvents, and you should have no trouble with one if it's clean to begin with.

Steve Turner