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Chemical Resistance of Cured Urethane Sealants

Solvents

Cured urethane sealants are resistant to occasional splash and spillage contact with typical solvents, and they can tolerate room-temperature immersion in ethyl alcohol and water-glycol mixtures. However, long-term immersion to most typical solvents such as those listed below will cause softening and swelling.

- Acetone
- Benzene
- Diesel fuel and gasoline
- Ester solvents
- Methyl alcohol
- Methylethyl ketone (MEK)
- Methylene chloride
- Mineral spirits; lacquer and paint thinner
- Toluene and xylene.

Alkaline (caustic) materials

Cured urethane sealants can tolerate splash and spillage contact with strongly alkaline (caustic) materials but are severely degraded by long-term immersion and by contact with hot caustics. Concentrations as dilute as 10% can cause serious deterioration. Caustic concentrations below 10% can still cause degradation but only upon longer contact. Typical caustics are:

- Caustic soda
- Caustic potash
- Sodium, potassium, calcium and ammonium hydroxides
- Trisodium phosphate solution
- Sodium carbonate solution.

Acids

Cured urethane sealants are resistant to both organic acids and strong inorganic acids in dilute to medium concentrations (25 to 50%) for both occasional and longer term contact; however, acids will cause urethane breakdown if hot or

concentrated.

Typical organic acids:

- Acetic
- Butyric
- Citric
- Lactic
- Oxalic.

- Typical inorganic acids:
- Hydrochloric (muriatic)
- Hydrobromic
- Phosphoric
- Sulfuric.

Miscellaneous

Cured urethane sealants can tolerate long-term total contact with dilute chlorine (5 ppm) but are degraded by chlorine levels of 100 ppm or above. Sealants will <u>not</u> withstand either total immersion or hot contact with oxidizing materials, such as:

- Chromic acid (>5%)
- Liquid oxygen
- Nitric acid (>75%)
- Perchloric acid (>75%).

Most other materials, such as lubricating oil, sodium chloride and salt solutions, have little effect.