

POLYVINYL CHLORIDE

The Springfield Plant began producing polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in the 1950s. The major raw material used in the PVC processes was vinyl chloride monomer (VCM). In 1970, the decision was made to get out of the VCM business for economic reasons. Consequently Monsanto's VCM operations was shut down at its Texas City Plant. This decision led to withdrawal from the PVC business. Monsanto announced this withdrawal in February, 1973. The VCM cancer link became known in January, 1974.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is a synthetic thermoplastic polymer. Its uses include piping, conduits, siding and gutters; raincoats, toys, garden hose and electrical insulation; containers for toiletries, cosmetics and household chemicals; coating for paper and textiles.

Vinyl chloride (VCM) is a raw material used in the production of polyvinyl chloride and copolymers.