

Volume 26
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BFGoodrich

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Woody Bar

PVC/VCM

Pitch or keep

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To Whom It May Concern:

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Bob H

The polymer, polyvinyl chloride, is a powdery substance that can be made into useful products. A wide variety of products including

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is a white substance to which a wide variety of additives (films,

tubing) and rigid (pipe, house siding) can be made from PVC. The physical properties of the end product depend on the other substances that are mixed (compounded) with the PVC polymer.

Due to its inherent safety, the Food and Drug Administration has for over 30 years permitted the use of PVC in a wide variety of food contact articles. These include such diverse products as food conveyor belts, hoses, film wraps, jar rings, bottles, and bottle cap liners. PVC compounds are also used in a number of medical applications; for example, blood bags and catheters. In fact, PVC blood bags are preferred to glass containers, in part due to their protective effect on whole blood.

The same properties permit the use of PVC compounds for potable water pipe applications. Since 1965, the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) has monitored the toxicological safety of plastic piping systems under NSF Standard #14 "Plastic Piping System Components and Related Materials". Standard #14 is widely used by regulatory agencies in all 50 states to insure the safety of plastic potable water systems. Enclosed is a brief summary of the NSF process.

In 1986, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency entered into an agreement with a consortium composed of the National Sanitation Foundation, the American Water Works Association Research Foundation, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators and the American Water Works Association to develop third party standards and certification programs for all direct and indirect drinking water additives. NSF Standard #61, "Drinking Water System Components", covers drinking water pipe. This standard sets rigid toxicological safety requirements for all materials which contact water.

In summary, because of its versatility and safety, polyvinyl chloride is permitted by the FDA to be used in a wide variety of food contact and medical applications. Likewise, the U.S. EPA permits the use of PVC in drinking water applications.

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