

Plasticolors' UVSolutions™ Technology Offers the Benefit of Superior Ultraviolet Stabilization for Composite Materials.

Ashtabula, Ohio - February, 2006 – The world of composites is evolving rapidly and Plasticolors ultraviolet technology is leading the way. Plasticolors expertise in ultraviolet (UV) protection and appearance science has proven to be a key ingredient for composite formulators requiring protection from the sun.

Thermoset composite parts are inherently poor performers when exposed to ultraviolet radiation. Within months of outdoor exposure, chalking can occur, fiberglass can become exposed, and the appearance becomes visibly and generally degraded. Traditionally, stabilizers are used to slow the UV degradation of a substrate. This approach might protect the substrate for a few months at best. The total system, application, part geometry and color space must be considered when developing stable composites.

It is easy to make the assumption that once a formulator has developed a stable formulation, one can always change colors and colorants, and so long as those colorants themselves are stable, retain the lightfast properties of the formulation. Unfortunately, this assumption is very often a mistake. Principles of appearance science predict that a formulation found to be weatherable in one color, will not prove equally weatherable in a color of differing spectrophotometric characteristics and physical properties. In response to this conundrum, Plasticolors has developed UVSolutions. UVSolutions colorants are dispersed in a blend of additives, monomers, and polymers and is predicated upon colorant and system chemistry interactions.

“UVSolutions takes Plasticolors appearance science technology and applies that knowledge to the specific polymer system of the customer,” said Liz Campbell, Product Development Manager. “Each system is slightly different with unique challenges. By partnering with our customers to optimize the specific polymer systems, we have added many years to the lives of their products. “

As a result, Plasticolors' UVSolutions™ technology has been proven successful in a number of composite applications, ranging from significant improvements in unpainted exterior composites to the ability to eliminate paint altogether. Commercial applications include light housing units, grill components, transit components, and various pultrusion applications.

For more information on Plasticolors UVSolutions, visit www.plasticolors.com or call 1-888-997-5137.

Plasticolors, Inc., a leading supplier of pigment and chemical dispersions to the paint, coatings, caulk, sealants and thermoset plastics industries, manufactures products for customers in the automotive, appliance, equipment, electrical, consumer and construction industries. The company's colorants can be found in a wide variety of products, including interior and exterior automotive components, epoxy flooring, electrical and appliance housings, and a myriad of paints, coatings and molded composite applications. The company is ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO/TS-16949 certified.