



Words, Terms, & Phrases Used in the Plastic Industry

ABRASION RESISTANCE: Ability to withstand the effects of repeated wearing, rubbing, scraping, etc.

ACCEPTANCE TESTING: Testing performed on a product to determine whether or not an individual lot of the product conforms with specified requirements.

ACIDS: One of a class of substances compounded of hydrogen and one or more other elements, capable of uniting with a base to form a salt, and in aqueous solution, turning blue litmus paper red.

ACRYLATE RESINS: A class of thermoplastic resins produced by polymerization of acrylic acid derivatives.

ACRYLONITRILE-BUTADIENE-STYRENE (ABS) PIPE AND FITTING PLASTICS: Plastics containing polymers or blends of polymers containing butadiene, acrylonitrile, and styrene or substituted styrene plus lubricants, stabilizers, and colorants.

ADHESIVE: A substance capable of holding materials together by surface attachment.

AGING: The effect of time on plastics exposed indoors at ordinary conditions of temperature and relatively clean air.

ALKALIES: Compounds capable of neutralizing acids and usually characterized by an acrid taste. Can be mild like baking soda or highly caustic like lye.

ALIPHATIC: Derived from or related to fats and other derivatives of the paraffin hydrocarbons, including unsaturated compounds of the ethylene and acetylene series.

ALKYD RESINS: A class of resins produced by condensation of a polybasic acid or anhydride and a polyhydric alcohol.

ALLYL RESINS: A class of resins produced from an ester or other derivative of allyl alcohol by polymerization.

ANIONS: Atoms or group of atoms carrying a negative charge. The charge results because there are more electrons than protons in the anion. Anions can be a source of micro contamination in high purity water applications.

ANNEAL: To prevent the formation of or remove stresses in plastics parts by controlled cooling from a suitable temperature.

APPARENT DENSITY: The weight per unit volume of a material including voids inherent in the material as tested.

AROMATIC: A large class of cyclic organic compounds derived from, or characterized by the presence of the benzene ring and its homologs.

AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION (AHJ): The individual official, board, department, or agency established and authorized by a state, county, city, or other political subdivision, created by law to administer and enforce specified requirements.

BACKFILL: All material used to fill the trench from bedding to finished surface.

BACKFILL, FINAL: Material used to fill the trench from initial backfill to finished surface.

BACKFILL, INITIAL: Material used to fill the trench from top of bedding to a designated height over the pipe.

BACKFILL, UNCONSOLIDATED: Non-compacted material in place in trench.

BEAM LOADING: The application of a load to a pipe between two

points of support, usually expressed in newtons (or pounds force) and the distance between the centers of the supports.

BEDDING, n: Materials placed in the bottom of the trench on top of the foundation soil which provides stable bottom support for buried pipe including the trench bottom groove support angle or select material placed around the pipe, and envelope or filter materials where used during insulation.

BEDDING, v: Placement of support materials for buried pipe.

BELL END: The enlarged portion of a pipe that resembles the socket portion of a fitting and that is intended to be used to make a joint.

BEVELED PIPE: A pipe with an end chamfered to assist in assembly into a socket connection.

BLISTER: Undesirable rounded elevation of the surface of a plastic, whose boundaries may be either more or less sharply defined, somewhat resembling in shape a blister on the human skin. A blister may burst and become flattened.

BOND: To attach by means of an adhesive.

BRITTLE FAILURE: A pipe failure mode which exhibits no visible (to the naked eye) permanent material deformation (stretching, elongation, or necking down) in the area of the break.

BUILDING SANITARY SEWER: That part of the horizontal piping of a sanitary drainage system which extends from the building sanitary drain, receives the discharge of the building sanitary drain, and conveys it to a public sewer, private sewer, individual sewage disposal system, or other point of disposal.

BUILDING STORM SEWER: That part of the horizontal piping of a storm drainage system which extends from the building storm drain, receives the discharge of the building storm drain, and conveys it to a public storm sewer, private storm sewer, or other point of disposal.

BURNED: Showing evidence of thermal decomposition through some discoloration, distortion, or destruction of the surface of the plastic.

CALENDERING: A process by which a heated rubber plastic product is squeezed between heavy rollers into a thin sheet or film. The film may be frictioned into the interstices of cloth, or it may be coated onto cloth or paper.

CAST RESIN: A resinous product prepared by pouring liquid resins into a mold and heat treating the mass to harden it.

CATALYSIS: The acceleration (or retardation) of the speed of a chemical reaction by the presence of a comparatively small amount of a foreign substance called a catalyst.

CATIONS: Atoms or group of atoms carrying a positive charge. The charge results because there are more protons than electrons in the cation. Cations can be a source of micro contamination in high purity water applications.

CELLULOSE: Inert substance, chemically a carbohydrate, which is the chief component of the solid structure of plants, wood, cotton, linen, etc.

CELLULOSE ACETATE: A class of resins made from a cellulose base, either cotton linters or purified wood pulp, by the action of acetic anhydride and acetic acid.



CEMENT: A dispersion of "solution" of unvulcanized rubber or a plastic in a volatile solvent. This meaning is peculiar to the plastics and rubber industries and may or may not be an adhesive composition (See also Solvent Cement).

CHLORINATED POLY VINYL CHLORIDE PLASTICS (CPVC): Plastics based on chlorinated poly (vinyl chloride) in which the chlorinated poly (vinyl chloride) is in the greatest amount by weight.

COALESCENCE: The union or fusing together of fluid globules or particles to form larger drops or a continuous mass.

COEXTRUSION: A process whereby two or more heated or unheated plastic material streams forced through one or more shaping orifice(s) become one continuously formed piece.

COLD FLOW: Change in dimensions or shape of some materials when subjected to external weight or pressure at room temperature.

COMPACTION, SOIL: Act of packing soil with mechanical force to increase its density.

COMPOSITE PIPE: Pipe consisting of two or more different materials arranged with specific functional purpose to serve as pipe.

COMPOUND: A combination of ingredients before being processed or made into a finished product. Sometimes used as a synonym for material, formulation.

CONDENSATION: A chemical reaction in which two or more molecules combine, usually with the separation of water or some other simple substance.

CONDUCTIVITY: Inverse of resistivity, used to assess ionic concentration by measuring conductance of flow of electric current.

CONDUIT: A tubular raceway for carrying electric wires, cables, or other conductors.

COPOLYMER: The product of simultaneous polymerization of two or more polymerizable chemicals, commonly known as monomers.

CRAZING: Fine cracks at or under the surface of a plastic.

CREEP: The unit elongation of a particular dimension under load for a specific time following the initial elastic elongation caused by load application. It is expressed usually in inches per unit of time.

CROSS LINKING: The formation of a three dimensional polymer by means of interchain reactions resulting in changes in physical properties.

CURE TIME (Solvent Cement): The necessary waiting period before pressurizing newly assembled joints in which the solvents in the cement must evaporate to produce joint strength.

DEGRADATION: A deleterious change in the chemical structure of a plastic.

DEIONIZED RESINS (DI RESINS): Electrically charged synthetic resin beads (typically produced from polystyrene resins) used to remove ionic contaminants as a means of purifying water through the ion exchange process.

DEIONIZED WATER (DI WATER): Water that has been purified by removing dissolved solids through an ion exchange process where ionic contaminants are removed.

DELAMINATION: The separation of the layers of material in a laminate.

DETECTION LIMIT (DL): With regard to micro contaminant analysis, it is the lowest measurable quantity of a particular element that is detectable by the analytical detection method used.

DETERIORATION: A permanent change in the physical properties of a plastic evidenced by impairment of these properties.

DIELECTRIC CONSTANT: Specific inductive capacity. The dielectric constant of a material is the ratio of the capacitance of a condenser having that material as dielectric to the capacity of the same condenser having a vacuum as dielectric.

DIELECTRIC STRENGTH: This is the force required to drive an electric current through a definite thickness of the material; the voltage required to break down a specified thickness of insulation.

DIFFUSION: The migration or wandering of the particles or molecules of a body of fluid matter away from the main body through a medium or into another medium.

DIMENSIONAL STABILITY: Ability of a plastic part to maintain its original proportions under conditions of use.

DIMENSION RATIO (DR): The average specified diameter of a pipe or tubing divided by the minimum specified wall thickness. The DR values shall be rounded to the nearest 0.5 unless otherwise specified (See also Standard Dimensional Ratio).

DUCTILE FAILURE: A pipe failure mode which exhibits material deformation (stretching, elongation, or necking down) in the area of the break.

DUROMETER: Trade name of the Shore Instrument Company for an instrument that measures hardness. The rubber or plastics durometer determines the "hardness" of rubber or plastics by measuring the depth of penetration (without puncturing) of blunt needle compressed on the surface for a short period of time.

DYNAMIC LEACH ANALYSIS: Relates to analytical testing of piping materials that are tested during exposure to UPW under flowing conditions. Under flowing conditions (dynamic), grab samples of high purity water are periodically pulled from the water flowing through the pipe and are subjected to leach analysis to quantify TOC, anions, cations & trace metals and other leachable contaminants that may be present under flowing conditions. Dynamic leach analysis also enables "on-line" testing of other potential contamination by continually monitoring resistivity, particles, and TOC overtime.

ELASTIC LIMIT: The load at which a material will no longer return to its original form when the load is released.

ELASTOMER: The name applied to substances having rubber like properties.

ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES: Primarily the resistance of a plastic to the passage of electricity, e.g. dielectric strength.

ELONGATION: The capacity to take deformation before failure in tension and is expressed as a percentage of the original length.

EMBEDMENT: The placement of materials completely around the pipe to provide support.

EMULSION: A dispersion of one liquid in another possible only when they are mutually insoluble.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS CRACKING (ESC): The development of cracks in a material that is subjected to stress or strain in the presence of specific chemicals.



ESTER: A compound formed by the elimination of water during the reaction between an alcohol and an acid; many esters are liquids. They are frequently used as plasticizers in rubber and plastic compounds.

ETHYL CELLULOSE: A thermoplastic material prepared by the ethylation of cellulose by diethyl sulfate or ethyl halides and alkali.

EXTRUSION: A process in which heated or unheated plastic is forced through a shaping orifice (a die) in one continuously formed shape as film, sheet, rod, or tubing.

EXTENDER: A material added to a plastic composition to reduce its cost.

FABRICATE: Method of forming a plastic into a finished article by machining, drawing, and similar operations.

FILLER: A material added to a plastic composition to impart certain qualities in the finished article.

FITTING: A piping component used to join or terminate sections of pipe or to provide changes of direction or branching in a pipe system.

FLEXURAL STRENGTH: The outer fiber stress, which must be attained in order to produce a given deformation under a beam load.

FORMULATION: A combination of ingredients before being processed or made into a finished product. Sometimes used as a synonym for material, compound.

FUSE: To join two plastic parts by softening the material by heat or solvents.

GATE: In an injection mold, a constriction in the flow channel between the runner and the mold cavity.

GENERIC: Common names for types of plastic materials. They may be either chemical terms or coined names. They contrast with trademarks, which are the property of one company.

GRAVITY FLOW: Liquefied medium conveyance that is induced by a positive elevation head such as a downward pipeline slope or a higher elevation reservoir.

GRAY WATER: The waste water of a system that may be a combination of the liquid and water-carried wastes except human wastes.

HARDNESS: A comparative gauge of resistance to indentation, not of surface hardness or abrasion resistance.

HEAT RESISTANCE: The ability to withstand the effects of exposure to high temperature. Care must be exercised in defining precisely what is meant when this term is used. Descriptions pertaining to heat resistance properties include: boilable, washable, cigarette proof, sterilizable, etc.

HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE PLASTICS (HDPE): *n*-those linear polyethylene plastics, g.v., having a standard density of 0.941 g/cm³ or greater.

HOOP STRESS: The circumferential stress imposed on a cylindrical wall by internal pressure loading.

IONIC CONTAMINATION: Electrically charged atoms or groups of atoms that can be a source of micro contamination in high purity water applications. Ionic contaminants are typically removed by the ion exchange (deionization) process (i.e. deionized water).

IMPACT STRENGTH: Resistance or mechanical energy absorbed by a plastic part to such shocks as dropping and hard blows.

IMPERMEABILITY: Permitting no passage into or through a material.

INJECTION MOLDING: Method of forming a plastic to the desired shape by forcing heat softened plastic into a relatively cool cavity where it rapidly solidifies.

KETONES: Compounds containing the carbonyl group (CO) to which is attached two alkyl groups. Ketones, such as methyl ethyl Ketone, are commonly used as solvents for resins and plastics.

LIGHT STABILITY: Ability of a plastic to retain its original color and physical properties upon exposure to sun or artificial light.

LIGHT TRANSMISSION: The amount of light that a plastic will pass.

LONGITUDINAL STRESS: The stress imposed on the long axis of any shape. It can be either a compressive or tensile stress.

LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE PLASTICS (LDPE): those branched polyethylene plastics, q.v., having a standard density of 0.910 to 0.925 g/cm³.

LUBRICANT: A substance used to decrease the friction between solid faces, and sometimes used to improve processing characteristics of plastic compositions.

MODULUS: The load in pounds per square inch or kilos per square centimeter of initial cross sectional area necessary to produce a stated percentage elongation which is used in the physical testing of plastics.

MOISTURE RESISTANCE: Ability to resist absorption of water.

MONOMER: The simplest repeating structural unit of a polymer; for addition polymers this represents the original unpolymerized compound.

NON FLAMMABLE: Will not support combustion.

NON-PRESSURE RATED PIPE (NPR): Pipe designed for gravity-conveyed medium which must resist only intermittent static pressures and does not have a pressure rating.

NONRIGID PLASTIC: A plastic which has a stiffness or apparent modulus of elasticity of not over 10,000 psi at 23°C which is determined in accordance with the Standard Method of Test for Stiffness in Flexure of Plastics.

NON TOXIC: Non poisonous.

ORANGE PEEL: Uneven surface somewhat resembling an orange peel.

ORGANIC CHEMICAL: Originally applied to chemicals derived from living organisms, as distinguished from "inorganic" chemicals found in minerals and inanimate substances; modern chemists define organic chemicals more exactly as those, which contain the element carbon.

PHENOLIC RESINS: Resins made by reaction of a phenol compound or tar acid with an aldehyde; more commonly applied to thermosetting resins made from pure phenol.

PLASTIC: A material that contains as an essential ingredient an organic substance of large molecular weight, is solid in its finished state, and, at some stage in its manufacture or in its processing into finished articles, can be shaped by flow.

PLASTICITY: A property of plastics and resins which allows the material to be deformed continuously and permanently without rupture upon the application of a force that exceeds the yield value of the material.



PLASTICIZER: A liquid or solid incorporated in natural and synthetic resins and related substances to develop such properties as resiliency, elasticity, and flexibility.

POLYETHYLENES: A class of resins formed by polymerizing ethylene, a gas obtained from petroleum hydrocarbons.

POLYMER: A product resulting from a chemical change involving the successive addition of a large number of relatively small molecules (monomer) to form the polymer, and whose molecular weight is usually a multiple of that of the original substance.

POLYMERIZATION: Chemical change resulting in the formation of a new compound whose molecular weight is usually a multiple of that of the original substance.

POLYPROPYLENE (PP): polymer prepared by the polymerization of propylene as the sole monomer.

POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC): Polymerized vinyl chloride, a synthetic resin, which when plasticized or softened with other chemicals has some rubber like properties. It is derived from acetylene and anhydrous hydrochloric acid.

POROSITY: Presence of numerous visible voids.

POWER FACTOR: The ratio of the power in watts delivered in an alternating current circuit (real power) to the volt-ampere input (apparent power). The power factor of insulation indicates the amount of the power input, which is consumed as a result of the impressed voltage forcing a small leakage current through the material.

PRESSURE RATING (PR): The estimated maximum water pressure the pipe is capable of withstanding continuously with a high degree of certainty that failure of the pipe will not occur.

PRIMER: An organic solvent or a blend of solvents, which enhances adhesion, applied to plastic pipe and fittings prior to application of a solvent cement.

QUICK BURST TEST: An internal pressure test designed to produce failure of a piping component over a relatively short period of time, usually measured in seconds. Quick Burst tests are typically specified as a 60 to 70 second test in applicable ASTM Standards for pipe and fittings.

RECYCLED PLASTIC: A thermoplastic material recovered from usually melt processed scrap of varying sources, sometimes completely different in form from their original state.

RESILIENCE: Usually regarded as another name for elasticity. While both terms are fundamentally related, there is a distinction in meaning. Elasticity is a general term used to describe the property of recovering original shape after a deformation. Resilience refers more to the energy of recovery; that is, a body may be elastic but not highly resilient. **RESIN:** An organic substance, generally synthetic, which is used as a base material for the manufacture of some plastics.

RESISTIVITY: As related to high purity water systems, it is used to assess ionic contaminant concentrations by measuring opposition to the flow of electric current in the water, and is typically measured in meg-ohms (expressed as meg-ohm resistivity of the water) to quantify the water purity.

REWORK PLASTIC: A thermoplastic plastic from a manufacturer's own production that has been reground or pelletized for reuse by that same manufacturer.

RO WATER (REVERSE OSMOSIS): Water that has been stripped of contaminants (purified) through the reverse osmosis purification process. Reverse osmosis is a filtration process whereby pressurized

feed water flows across a membrane. The filtered water is known as permeate because it has penetrated the membrane. The RO process removes most organic compounds, up to 99% of all ions, and is more efficient than many alternate water purification methods.

RIGID PLASTIC: A plastic which has a stiffness or apparent modulus of elasticity greater than 100,000 psi at 23°C when determined in accordance with the Standard Method of Test for Stiffness in Flexure of Plastics.

SIMULATED WEATHERING: The exposure of plastics to cyclic laboratory conditions of high and low temperatures, high and low relative humidities, and ultraviolet radiant energy in an attempt to produce changes in their properties similar to those observed on long time continuous exposure outdoors. The laboratory exposure conditions are usually intensified beyond those encountered in actual outdoor exposure in an attempt to achieve an accelerated effect.

SIMULATED AGING: The exposure of plastics to cyclic laboratory conditions of high and low temperatures, and high and low relative humidities in an attempt to produce changes in their properties similar to those observed on long time continuous exposure to conditions of temperature and relative humidity commonly encountered indoors or to obtain an acceleration of the effects of ordinary indoor exposure. The laboratory exposure conditions are usually intensified beyond those actually encountered in an attempt to achieve an accelerated effect.

SOLVENT: The medium within which a substance is dissolved; most commonly applied to liquids used to bring particular solids into solution, e.g., acetone is a solvent for PVC.

SOLVENT CEMENT: Dissolved plastic resin or compound in a suitable solvent or mixture of solvents. The solvent cement dissolves the surfaces of the pipe and fittings to form a bond (weld) between the mating surfaces provided the proper cement is used for the particular materials and proper techniques are followed.

SOLVENT CLEANER: An organic solvent used to remove foreign matter from the surface of plastic pipe and fittings.

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: Ratio of the mass of a body to the mass of an equal volume of water at 4°C, or some other specified temperature.

SPECIFIC HEAT: Ratio of the thermal capacity of a substance to that of water at 15°C.

STABILIZER: A chemical substance, which is frequently added to plastic compounds to inhibit undesirable changes in the material, such as discoloration due to heat or light.

STANDARD DIMENSION RATIOS (SDR): A specific ratio of the average specified outside diameter to the minimum specified wall thickness (D0/t) for outside diameter-controlled plastic pipe.

STATIC LEACH ANALYSIS: Relates to analytical testing of materials that are tested during exposure to UPW (or other test medium) under static or non-flowing conditions (soak). Test method is used to quantify the degree of micro contaminants that are extracted or "leached" from the material being immersed. Various test methods are utilized to quantify any leachates detected.

STRAIN: The change per unit of length in a linear dimension of a body, that accompanies a stress. Strain is a dimensionless quantity which may be measured conveniently in percent, in inches per inch, in millimeters per millimeter, etc.



STRENGTH: The mechanical properties of a plastic, such as a load or weight carrying ability, and ability to withstand sharp blows. Strength properties include tensile, flexural, and tear strength, toughness, flexibility, etc.

STRESS CRACK: External or internal cracks in a plastic caused by tensile stresses less than that of its short time mechanical strength.

STYRENE PLASTICS: Plastics based on polymers of styrene or copolymers of styrene with other monomers, the styrene being the greatest amount by mass.

SUSTAINED PRESSURE TEST: A constant internal pressure test for an extended period of time. One thousand hours is a commonly used period of time in pipe and fitting tests.

TEAR STRENGTH: Resistance of a material to tearing (strength).

TENSILE STRENGTH: The capacity of a material to resist a force tending to stretch it. Ordinarily the term is used to denote the force required to stretch a material to rupture, and is known variously as "breaking load", "breaking stress", "ultimate tensile strength", and sometimes erroneously as "breaking strain". In plastics testing, it is the load in pounds per square inch or kilos per square centimeter of original cross-sectional area, supported at the moment of rupture by a piece of test sample on being elongated.

THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY: Capacity of a plastic material to conduct heat.

THERMAL EXPANSION: The increase in length of a dimension under the influence of a change in temperature.

THERMOPLASTIC MATERIALS: Plastic materials that repeatedly can be softened by heating and hardened by cooling through a temperature range characteristic of the plastic, and that in the softened state can be shaped by flow into articles by molding or extrusion.

THERMOSET MATERIALS: Plastic materials, which undergo a chemical change and harden permanently when heated in processing. Further heating will not soften these materials.

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC): A measurement of total organic carbon (synonymous with total oxidizable carbon and total organic chemicals) that is used to quantify organic contamination present in water. Organic matter plays a major role in water systems, as it affects biogeochemical processes, nutrient cycling, biological availability, chemical transport and interactions. It also has direct implications in the planning of water treatment and equipment. Organic matter content is typically measured as total organic carbon and dissolved organic carbon. Organic matter in water consists of thousands of components, including macroscopic particles, colloids, dissolved macromolecules, and specific compounds. As a result, the concentration of TOC's present within the water can be of a concern in high purity water as it is a form of micro contamination.

TRANSLUCENT: Permitting the passage of light, but diffusing it so that objects beyond cannot be clearly distinguished.

VINYL CHLORIDE PLASTICS: Plastics based on resins made by the polymerization of vinyl chloride or copolymerization of vinyl chloride with minor amounts (not over 50 percent) of other unsaturated compounds.

ULTRAPURE WATER (UPW): Water that has been purified by various methods and/or combination of methods (i.e. Reverse Osmosis, deionization etc.). The produced water is extremely pure and contains no to very low concentration of salts, organic/pyrogene components, oxygen, suspended solids and bacteria. Water quality standards are used to define the purity requirements of the UPW based on the intended application. Ultrapure water is a very aggressive cleaning agent and is used in a variety of industries (semiconductor, pharmaceutical, health care, electronics etc.) where maintaining high purity is a requirement.

VINYL PLASTICS: Plastics based on resins made from vinyl monomers, except those specifically covered by other classifications, such as acrylic and styrene plastics. Typical vinyl plastics are polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyvinyl butyral, and copolymers of vinyl monomers with unsaturated compounds.

VIRGIN PLASTIC: A plastic material in the form of pellets, granules, powder, or liquid that has not been subjected to use or processing other than that required for its initial manufacture.

VISCOSITY: The property of resistance to flow exhibited within the body of a material.

VOLATILE: Property of liquids to pass away by evaporation.

VOLUME RESISTIVITY: The electrical resistance of a 1 centimeter cube of the material expressed in ohm centimeters.

WATER ABSORPTION: The percentages by weight of water absorbed by a sample immersed in water. Dependent upon area exposed.

WATER VAPOR TRANSMISSION: The penetration of a plastic by moisture in the air.

WEATHER RESISTANCE: The ability of a plastic to retain its original physical properties and appearance under prolonged exposure to outdoor weather.

WELDING: The joining of two or more pieces of plastic by fusion of the material in the pieces at adjoining or nearby areas either with or without the addition of plastic from another source.

YIELD POINT: The point at which a material will continue to elongate at no substantial increase in load during a short test period.

YIELD STRESS: The force, which must be applied to a plastic to initiate flow.