

# CHEMICAL RESISTANCE

## APPLICABLE TO MOLDED POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS

Molded polystyrene from Atlas Molded Products is used in a wide variety of applications. There may be applications where the molded polystyrene is subject to chemical exposure. This can be by either direct exposure to the chemicals or to chemical vapors which may emit from adjacent materials. Exposure to chemicals most commonly occurs during the installation process. This bulletin provides guidance for the resistance of molded polystyrene to commonly encountered chemicals.

### CHEMICAL RESISTANCE RATING SUMMARY

CHEMICAL	RATING
Agricultural (fertilizer, manure, soil, urine)	★ ★ ★
Antifreeze (ethylene glycol, propylene glycol)	★ ★ ★
Base solutions (ammonia, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide)	★ ★ ★
Bleach, borax, detergents	★ ★ ★
Concrete (cement, mortar, stucco)	★ ★ ★
Inorganic acid solutions, dilute (boric, muriatic, sulfuric)	★ ★ ★
Food (beer, carbonated soda, coffee, tea)	★ ★ ★
Mineral oil	★ ★ ★
Salt solutions, dilute (ammonium, ferrous, sodium, sulfur)	★ ★ ★
Alcohols (ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, methanol)	★ ★
Construction materials (asphalt emulsions, GREAT STUFF™, low VOC adhesives)	★ ★
Adhesives (Gorilla® Glue, polystyrene compatible, water based)	★ ★
Organic acid solutions, dilute (acetic, carbolic, citric)	★ ★
Other oils (coconut, corn, motor, palm)	★ ★
Hydrocarbon vapors & liquids (diesel, gasoline, kerosene, methane)	⊘
Solvents (acetone, chloroform, formaldehyde, methyl ethyl ketone, methylene chloride, naphtha, turpentine)	⊘
Solvent based products	⊘

See the following page for descriptions of each rating.

- ★ ★ ★ Limited degradation or effect from exposure
- ★ ★ Some effect from exposure
- ⊘ Significant degradation and/or completely dissolving product

This guide does not guarantee long term performance of molded polystyrene when in contact with the listed or any other chemicals. As the list is not exhaustive, it is recommended that laboratory tests modeled to represent chemical exposure in end-use conditions be conducted to assure suitable long-term performance.

When the exposure of molded polystyrene to any harmful chemicals is a possibility or in doubt, protection by means of an appropriate barrier material is required.

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