

PVC Alternatives

There is increasing information that suggests plasticizers, such as phthalates, may leach out of PVC (polyvinylchloride) plastic materials. There are concerns that these plasticizers may cause health and environmental problems. Crosslinked polyethylene is considered an alternative material for many of the most demanding applications of PVC. Polyethylene can be crosslinked by means of electron beam processing, which is an efficient, well-established industrial process that does not require the use of potentially harmful additives that are required in thermochemical crosslinking methods. Medical device examples for crosslinked polyethylene replacement of PVC include intravenous (IV) bags and blood bags. In the construction industry, examples include plumbing and roofing products.