

Polypropylene Chemical Resistance Guide

Chemical Listing & Ratings



HVK Polymers An associate of PTT & LyondellBasell

About HMC Polymers

HMC Polymers is focused on being Asia's number ONE in PP.

We work in close cooperation with our customers to improve existing products and develop new resins for the rapidly changing markets we serve. The company offers a wide range of products suitable for all major applications and processes, as well as innovative new products with expanded capabilities, which are used by customers to replace traditional materials and other plastics.

We have expertise in converting our products with a variety of leading process technologies to ensure our customers are able to obtain polypropylene grades optimised for their market needs.

Polypropylene products produced by HMC Polymers are the essential building blocks used to manufacture countless everyday goods such as consumer products, fresh food packaging, automotive and electrical components, durable textiles, medical applications, pipe systems and many others.

PP chemical resistance

HMC Polymers' polypropylene resins, like most polyolefins, are highly resistant to solvents and chemicals.

The results of extensive laboratory and actual field installation tests of polypropylene's chemical resistance are reported in this downloadable PDF which is periodically updated.

The chemical resistance data presented in this PDF for a range of over 260 chemicals and substances is based on ASTM D543.

Testing

Unstressed resin specimens are used measuring 76mm (3") long x 0.635mm (0.025") thick, in the shape of dumbbells. Results are reported after 1 month immersion. Important: As it is difficult to create actual service conditions in the laboratory, the results of many of the environments should be taken only as an indication of behaviour in service.

PP chemical resistance capability

HMC polypropylene resins have outstanding resistance to water and other inorganic environments. In most aqueous environments, its weight increase is less than 0.2% when it has been stored for 6 months at ambient temperatures. When the temperature is increased to 60°C (140°F), the weight increase is less than 0.5% for a similar period. According to ASTM D570, its 24 hr water absorption rate is 0.03%. It resists most strong mineral acids and bases, but, like the other polyolefins, it is subject to attack by oxidizing agents.

HMC PP resins are appreciably affected by chlorosulfonic acid and oleum at room temperature, 98% sulfuric acid, 30% hydrochloric acid, and 30% hydrogen peroxide at 100°C (212°F). They are also affected by 98% sulfuric acid at 60°C (140°F) and fuming nitric acid and liquid bromine at room temperatures. Under strain, failure could occur with strong oxidizing acids at temperatures lower than those mentioned. With few exceptions however, inorganic chemicals produce little or no effect on HMC PP resins over a period of 6 months at temperatures up to 120°C (248°F).

The permeation resistance of HMC PP resins to organic chemicals depends on the rate and extent to which absorption occurs. This, in turn, affects the suitability of the resin to serve in a particular environment. When the resin is removed from the environment, evaporation will take place and cause it to return almost to its original dimensions. Property changes resulting from the absorption will be reversed if evaporation is complete.

Temperature and polarity of the organic medium are the foremost factors in determining the extent of absorption by polypropylene. Absorption becomes greater as temperatures are increased and polarity of the medium is decreased. Polypropylene copolymers swell more than homopolymers, indicating greater absorption. Such nonpolar liquids as benzene, carbon tetrachloride, and petroleum ether have a higher absorption rate with polypropylene than polar media such as ethanol and acetone.

Some reduction in tensile strength and an increase in flexibility and elongation-to-break in tension can be expected, depending on the nature and amount of the organic medium absorbed.

HMC PP resins have excellent resistance to environmental stress-cracking. When they are tested according to ASTM D1693 the brittle fractures that occur with certain polyethylenes in contact with polar organic liquids, detergents, and silicone fluids are not observed. Failure of this type with polypropylene is rare. Those environments known to cause such cracking to polypropylene are 98% sulfuric acid, concentrated chromic/sulfuric acid mixtures, and concentrated hydrochloric acid/chlorine mixtures.

The useful life of HMC PP resins at elevated temperatures is limited by oxidative degradation. The expected life of polypropylene at any given temperature is also determined by the nature of the environment, and by the extraction of some of the antioxidant system. Any environment that tends to extract the antioxidants may lead to more rapid breakdown of the polypropylene, especially at elevated temperatures.

Chemicals A - B



Rating system

This chart rates the chemical resistance of HMC PP resin according to the following code:

A - Negligible effect

Should be suitable for all applications where these environmental conditions exist.

B - Limited absorption or attack

Should be suitable for most applications, but the user is advised to make his or her own tests to determine the suitability of polypropylene in the particular environment.

C - Extensive absorption and/or rapid permeation

Should be suitable for applications where only intermittent service is involved, or where the swelling produced has no detrimental effect on the part.

D - Extensive attack

The specimen dissolves or disintegrates. Polypropylene is not recommended.

Note: The user is advised to make his or her own tests to determine the suitability of polypropylene in the particular environment.

Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp °C 60	100
Acetic acid (glacial)	97	Α	B (80°C)	-
Acetic acid	50	Α	A (80°C)	-
Acetic acid	40	Α	-	-
Acetic acid	10	Α	Α	-
Acetone	100	Α	Α	-
Acetophenone	100	В	В	-
Acriflavine (2% solution in H ₂ 0)	2	А	А	- (80°C)
Acrylic emulsions		Α	Α	-
Aluminum chloride		Α	Α	-
Aluminum fluoride		Α	Α	-
Aluminum sulfate		Α	А	-
Alums (all types)		Α	А	-
Ammonia (aqueous)	30	Α	-	-
Ammonia gas (dry)		Α	Α	-
Ammonium carbonate	Satd.	А	А	-
Ammonium chloride	Satd.	А	А	-
Ammonium fluoride	20	Α	А	-
Ammonium hydroxide	10	Α	А	-

Environment	Conc.		Temp 'C	
	%	20	60	100
Ammonium metaphosphate	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Ammonium nitrate	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Ammonium persulfate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Ammonium sulfate	Satd.	А	А	-
Ammonium sulfide	Satd.	А	А	-
Ammonium thiocyanate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Amyl acetate	100	В	С	-
Amyl alcohol	100	А	В	-
Amyl chloride	100	С	С	-
Aniline	100	А	А	-
Anisole	100	В	В	-
Antimony chloride		Α	А	-
Aviation fuel (115/145 octane)	100	В	С	-
Aviation turbine fuel	100	В	С	-
Barium carbonate	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Barium chloride	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Barium hydroxide		Α	А	-
Barium sulfate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Barium sulfide	Satd.	А	А	-

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Chemicals B - D



Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp 'C 60	100	Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp °C 60
Beer	'	А	А	-	Calcium phosphate	50	Α	-
Benzene	100	В	С	С	Calcium sulfate		Α	А
Benzoic acid	Α	А	-		Calcium sulfite		Α	А
Benzyl alcohol		Α	A (20°C)	-	Carbon dioxide (dry)		Α	А
Bismuth carbonate	Satd.	Α	(80°C)		Carbon dioxide (wet)		Α	А
Borax	Jaiu.	A	A		Carbon disulfide	100	В	С
Boric acid		A	A		Carbon monoxide		Α	Α
Brine	Satd.	A	A		Carbon tetrachloride	100	С	С
	100	D	- A		Carbonic acid		Α	А
Bromine liquid Bromine water		С		-	Castor oil		Α	-
	(a)	С			Cetyl alcohol	100	А	-
Butyl acetate	100		С		Chlorine (gas)	100	D	D
Butyl alcohol	100	А	Α	-	Chlorobenzene	100	С	С
Calcium carbonate	Satd.	Α	Α	-	Chloroform	100	С	D
Calcium chlorate	Satd.	Α	А	-	Chlorosulfonic acid	100	D	D
Calcium chloride	50	Α	А	-	Chrome alum		Α	А
Calcium hydroxide		Α	А	-	Chromic acid	80 ^(a)	Α	-
Calcium hypochlorite bleach	20 ^(a)	Α	В	-	Chromic acid	50 ^(a)	А	А
Calcium nitrate		А	А	-	Chromic acid	10 ^(a)	Α	А

Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp °C 60	100
Chromic/sulfuric acid		D	D	-
Cider		Α	А	-
Citric acid	10	Α	А	-
Copper chloride	Satd.	А	А	-
Copper cyanide	Satd.	Α	А	-
Copper fluoride	Satd.	Α	А	-
Copper nitrate	Satd.	А	А	-
Copper sulfate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Cottonseed oil		Α	А	-
Cuprous chloride	Satd.	Α	А	-
Cyclohexanol	100	Α	В	-
Cyclohexanone	100	В	С	-
Decalin	100	С	С	С
Detergents	2	Α	А	Α
Developers (photographic)		Α	А	-
Dibutyl phthalate	100	Α	В	D
Dichloroethylene	100	Α	-	-
Diethanolamine	100	Α	А	-

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Chemicals E - H



Environment	Conc.	20	Temp °C 60	100
Diisooctyl phthalate	100	А	А	-
Emulsifiers		А	А	-
Ethanolamine	100	Α	А	-
Ethyl acetate	100	В	В	-
Ethyl alcohol	96	Α	A (80°C)	-
Ethyl chloride	100	С	С	-
Ethylene dichloride	100	В	-	-
Ethylene glycol		Α	А	-
Ethylene oxide	100	B (10°C)	-	-
Ethyl ether	100	В	-	-
Fatty acids (C ₆)	100	Α	А	-
Ferric chloride	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Ferric nitrate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Ferric sulfate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Ferrous chloride	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Ferrous sulfate	Satd.	Α	А	-

Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp [°] C 60	100
Fluorosilicic acid		А	А	-
Formaldehyde	40	Α	Α	-
Formic acid	100	А	-	-
Formic acid	10	Α	Α	-
Fructose		Α	Α	-
Fruit juices		Α	Α	-
Furfural	100	С	С	-
Gas liquor		С	-	-
Gasoline	100	В	С	С
Gearbox oil	100	А	В	-
Gelatin		А	А	-
Glucose	20	А	А	-
Glycerin	100	Α	Α	Α
Glycol		А	А	-
Hexane	100	Α	В	-
Hydrobromic acid	50 ^(a)	Α	Α	-

Environment	Conc.		Temp 'C	
	%	20	60	100
Hydrochloric acid	30 ^(a)	Α	В	D
Hydrochloric acid	20	Α	А	-
			(80°C)	
Hydrochloric acid	10	Α	Α	В
			(80°C)	
Hydrochloric acid	2	Α	Α	Α
50-50 HCI-HNO ₃	(a)	В	D	-
			(80°C)	
Hydrofluoric acid	40	Α	-	-
Hydrofluoric acid	60 ^(a)	Α	Α	В
			(40°C)	
Hydrogen chloride gas (dry)	100	Α	Α	-
Hydrogen peroxide	30	Α	-	D
Hydrogen peroxide	10	Α	В	-
Hydrogen peroxide	3	Α	-	-
Hydrogen sulfide		А	А	-
Hydroquinone		Α	А	-

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Chemicals I - P



Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp °C 60	100
Inks		Α	Α	-
lodine tincture		Α	-	-
Isooctane	100	С	С	-
Isopropyl alcohol	100	Α	Α	-
Ketones		Α	-	-
Lactic acid	20	Α	Α	-
Lanolin	100	Α	А	-
Lead acetate	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Linseed oil	100	Α	Α	-
Lubricating oil	100	Α	В	-
Magenta dye	2	Α	Α	-
(aqueous solution)			Some staining	
Magnesium carbonate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Magnesium chloride	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Magnesium hydroxide	Satd.	Α	А	-

Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp °C 60	100
Magnesium nitrate	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Magnesium sulfate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Magnesium sulfite	Satd.	Α	А	-
Meat juices		Α	А	-
Mercuric chloride	40	Α	А	-
Mercuric cyanide	Satd.	Α	А	-
Mercurous nitrate	Satd.	А	А	-
Mercury	100	Α	А	-
Methyl alcohol	100	А	А	-
Methylene chloride	100	А	-	-
Methyl ethyl ketone	100	Α	В	-
Milk and its products		А	А	Α
Mineral oil	100	Α	В	-
Molasses		Α	А	-
Motor oil	100	А	В	-
Naphthalene	100	Α	Α	Α
Nickel chloride	Satd.	А	А	-
Nickel nitrate	Satd.	А	А	-

Environment	Conc.	20	Temp °C 60	100
Nickel sulfate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Nitric acid	fuming	D	D	D
Nitric acid	70 ^(a)	С	D	-
Nitric acid	60	А	D (80°C)	-
Nitric acid	10	Α	А	Α
50-50 HCO ₃ -HCI	(a)	В	D (80°C)	-
50-50 HNO ₃ -H ₂ -SO ₄	(a)	С	D (80°C)	-
Nitrobenzene	100	Α	Α	-
Oleic acid		Α	В	-
Oleum		-	-	D
Olive oil	100	Α	А	-
Oxalic acid (aqueous)	50	А	В	-
Paraffin	100	Α	В	-
Paraffin wax	100	А	А	-
Petrol	100	В	С	-

В

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Chemicals P - S



Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp °C 60	100
Petroleum ether (boiling point 100°-140°C)	100	С	С	-
Phenol	100	Α	Α	-
Phosphoric acid	95	Α	А	-
Plating solutions, brass		Α	Α	-
Plating solutions, cadmium		Α	А	-
Plating solutions, chromium		Α	Α	-
Plating solutions, copper		Α	А	-
Plating solutions, gold		Α	А	-
Plating solutions, indium		Α	А	-
Plating solutions, lead		Α	Α	-
Plating solutions, nickel		Α	А	-
Plating solutions, rhodium		Α	А	-
Plating solutions, silver		Α	А	-
Plating solutions, tin		Α	А	-
Plating solutions, zinc		Α	А	-
Potassium bicarbonate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Potassium borate	1	А	А	-
Potassium bromate	10	А	А	-
Potassium bromide	Satd.	Α	А	-

Environment	Conc.	20	Temp °C 60	100
Potassium carbonate	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Potassium chlorate	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Potassium chloride	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Potassium chromate	40	Α	А	-
Potassium cyanide	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Potassium dichromate	40	Α	Α	-
Potassium ferri-/ferrocyanide		Α	А	-
Potassium fluoride		Α	Α	-
Potassium hydroxide	50	Α	А	-
Potassium hydroxide	10	А	А	Α
Potassium nitrate	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Potassium perborate	Satd.	А	А	-
Potassium perchlorate	10	А	А	-
Potassium permanganate	20	А	А	-
Potassium sulfate		А	А	-
Potassium sulfide		Α	Α	-
Potassium sulfite		А	А	-
Propyl alcohol	100	А	А	-
Pyridine	100	А	-	-

Environment	Conc.	Temp °C		
	%	20	60	100
Silicone oil	100	Α	Α	-
Soap solution (concentrated)		Α	Α	-
Sodium acetate		Α	Α	-
Sodium bicarbonate	Satd.	А	Α	-
Sodium bisulfate	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Sodium bisulfite	Satd.	Α	А	-
Sodium borate		Α	А	-
Sodium bromide oil solution		Α	А	-
Sodium carbonate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Sodium chlorate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Sodium chloride	Satd.	Α	А	Α
Sodium chlorite	2	А	A (80°C)	-
Sodium chlorite	5	A (80°C)	А	-
Sodium chlorite	10	A (80°C)	А	-
Sodium chlorite	20	A (80°C)	Α	-
Sodium cyanide	Satd.	А	А	-

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Chemicals S - Z



Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp °C 60	100
Sodium dichromate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Sodium ferricyanide	Satd.	Α	А	-
Sodium ferrocyanicle	Satd.	Α	А	-
Sodium fluoride	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Sodium hydroxide	50	Α	А	-
Sodium hydroxide	10	Α	А	Α
Sodium hypochlorite	20	Α	В	В
Sodium nitrate		Α	А	-
Sodium nitrite		Α	А	-
Sodium silicate		Α	А	-
Sodium sulfate	Satd.	Α	А	-
Sodium sulfide	25	Α	А	-
Sodium sulfite	Satd.	Α	А	-
Stannic chloride	Satd.	Α	А	-
Stannous chloride	Satd.	Α	А	-
Starch		Α	А	-
Sugars and syrups		Α	А	-

Environment		Conc. %	20	Temp [°] C 60	100
Sulfamic acid			Α	A (80°C)	-
Sulfates of	calcium and magnesium	Satd.	Α	А	-
Sulfates of	potassium and sodium		Α	А	-
Sulfur			Α	Α	-
Sulfuric acid		98 ^(a)	С	-	D
Sulfuric acid		60	Α	B (80°C)	-
Sulfuric acid		50	Α	В	-
Sulfuric acid		10	Α	Α	Α
50-50 H ₂ SO ₄ /	HNO ₃	(a)	С	D (80°C)	-
Tallow			Α	Α	-
Tannic acid		10	Α	Α	-
Tartaric acid			Α	Α	-
Tetrahydrofur	an	100	С	С	С
Tetralin		100	С	С	С
Toluene		100	С	С	-

Environment	Conc. %	20	Temp °C 60	100
Transformer oil	100	Α	С	-
Trichloroacetic acid	10	Α	А	-
Trichloroethylene	100	А	A (80°C)	-
Turpentine	100	С	С	С
Urea		Α	А	-
Urine		Α	Α	-
Water (distilled, soft, hard and vapo	our)	Α	А	A
Wet chlorine	gas	-	D 70%	-
Whiskey		Α	Α	Α
White paraffin	100	А	B 80%	-
White spirit	100	В	С	-
Wines		Α	А	-
Xylene	100	С	С	С
Yeast		Α	Α	-
Zinc chloride	Satd.	Α	Α	-
Zinc oxide		Α	А	-
Zinc sulfate	Satd.	Α	А	-

(a) May produce cracking in material under stress

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For HMC location directions and maps, refer to the locations page on www.hmcpolymers.com



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