

LEACHING OF PREVULCANIZED LATEX FILMS

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Generally, prevulcanized latex films when subjected to leaching in water shows better clarity due to more efficient leaching away of water soluble material which causes discolouration. These substances are mainly phenolic or amine types. One disadvantage is the poor ageing properties of leached films. This can however be improved by adding antioxidants at the latex stage prior to drying. These antioxidants should not themselves be leached away and they should not discolour the films. Phenolic antioxidants are preferred to amine types due to this reason.

Prevulcanized latex films prepared by using different vulcanizing systems and different latex types are compared and the effectiveness of irradiated prevulcanized latex films to preserve the clarity is demonstrated.

Reference

1. Blackley, D. C. (1966). High polymer latices. London: Maclaren, Chapter 7.