

Safer Solvents for Contact Adhesives

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Contact adhesives are based upon polychloroprene and block copolymers and contain toxic solvents such as toluene and hexane. Major markets for contact adhesives include woodworking for countertop construction, shelving, and office fixtures. TURI, UMass Lowell faculty and students have worked with ITW Polymers Sealants to conduct research on safer alternative chemicals to replace toluene and hexane in contact adhesives. Several alternative formulations have been identified and evaluated that have equal or better bonding performance than the current contact adhesive formulations.