

Memo

From: Tim Ling (614-294-3281)
Date: Friday, March 30, 2012
Re: UV Absorption in Acrylic Sheets

Plaskolite, Inc.'s acrylic sheets, including Optix® and Duraplex®, have UV absorbers added to their base acrylic resin to absorb UV radiation. The type and amount of UV absorbers in the acrylic sheet is proprietary information, but they are similar to the UV absorbers in sunscreen lotions which absorb UV radiation and release it as heat.

Since the UV absorbers are part of the base acrylic resin, the resulting acrylic sheet contains the UV absorbers dispersed throughout its entire thickness, which maximizes the UV absorption characteristics of Plaskolite's acrylic sheets.

There are other plastic sheets (e.g., polycarbonate) that do not or cannot incorporate the UV absorbers into their base resin, therefore, these plastics typically rely on a UV absorbing cap layer or coating on either one or both sheet surfaces. Since the UV absorbing cap or coating layer is much thinner than the sheet itself, they may not be as effective as Plaskolite's acrylic sheets with the UV absorbers dispersed throughout the entire sheet.

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