

Benefits

- ! reduced wood and glue wastes
- ! improved yield

Cautions

- ! The shelf life and pot life of glues vary. Be sure to know the shelf life before purchasing or catalyzing large quantities as they could end up as waste.
- ! PVA is more expensive than urea, however it is better suited for certain applications.
- ! Urea formaldehyde resins are sources of formaldehyde emissions; discuss with suppliers to obtain the lowest emitting resin that can do the job.
- ! Federal air regulations regulate emissions for contact adhesives, that is, adhesives that bond without requiring clamping, pressure or airing. Glues used to aid in holding a structural piece of furniture together (e.g. table legs to a table top) are not regulated by this rule. Check with your governing regulatory agency for details.

Hussey Seating Case Study

North Berwick, Maine

Hussey uses adhesives to aid in attaching fabric to chair seats and backs during the upholstery operation. Hussey also makes wood seats and backs by gluing several thin pieces of wood together. Traditionally, all of the adhesives used at the facility were solvent-based. These contributed to Hussey's air emissions, as well as potential air quality problems with the plant.

In 1995, Hussey switched all of the adhesives used at the plant to PVA glues. No air emission or safety concerns are associated with the new adhesives. In addition, the glue manufacturer takes back all the waste glue and cleanup rinse water to use in their production process. Therefore, Hussey no longer has any glue or rinse wastewater disposal issues or costs.

Source: "Wood Furniture: The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and Pollution Prevention Opportunities," The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association, Sept. 1997.