FAQs

Plastic Pipe Cements and Primers

Q **What is the shelf life of the cements and primers?**

A PVC & ABS Cements, Primers and Cleaners have 3 year shelf life from date of manufacture, and CPVC has 2 year shelf life from date of manufacture.

Q **Where can I find the date code on can?**

A The date codes on all PVC, ABS and CPVC Cements, Primers and Cleaners are located on the bottom of can.

Q **How do I read the date code?**

A The date is written in Julian format. The first group of five numbers is the date of manufacture and is read as follows, i.e. 14045. The first two numbers are the year and the last three numbers are the day of the year. 14=2014 and 045=February 14th, so the date of manufacture is February 14th, 2014.

Q **What can I use to clean up purple primer?**

A Unfortunately once purple primer comes into contact with any material, the affect is permanent.

Q **Can I use PVC cement on CPVC pipe, or CPVC cement on PVC pipe?**

A Oatey has formulated different cements for various applications and you should always use PVC cements on PVC piping and CPVC cements on CPVC piping. If you have a unique circumstance, please contact our technical department.

Q **How are cure times determined?**

A Cure times vary depending on a wide variety of factors. Please use online charts or contact technical department for your job specific application.

Q **What type of primer do I use on PVC and CPVC pipe?**

A All primers are safe for use on PVC and CPVC pipe and fittings.

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Q **How many fittings can I cement together with one can of cement?**

A This depends on the can size and the diameter of pipe. Please use online charts or contact technical department for your job specific application.

Q **Do I need to use primer on ABS?**

A No. You should never use primer on ABS pipe because it will affect the integrity of the pipe.

Q **What cement do you recommend when chemicals are flowing through the lines?**

A Please email our technical department for job specific application guidelines.

Q **Can I use PVC cement to join ABS to PVC?**

A No. Oatey has green transition cement for this application. Before using this product on your project, you will need to check with your local building officials to insure it is approved in your municipality.

Q **How do I know what cement to use with what product (material and diameter)?**

A If you have questions regarding what product to use, please contact our technical department for job specific application guidelines.

Q **Should I let primer dry before applying the cement?**

A The primer should still be wet when applying the cement. This means that the chemicals within the primer are still evaporating, but the appearance will look dry. The proper time frame to apply cement and finish the joint assembly is within five (5) minutes after the primer is applied.

Q **What cements do not contain MEK?**

A The only cement that this applies to is the Oatey All Weather. There is still the possibility of trace MEK residue since multiple cements are mixed in the mixers.

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Q **What cements do not require that the pipe is primed first?**

A There are a few specialty PVC and CPVC cements which do not require the pipe/fittings to be primed before the cementing process, but you still must check with your local municipality to see if they require priming the pipe and fittings first. Remember to never use primer on or with ABS products.

Q **What PVC cements allow for the longest set-up time for multiple joint assemblies?**

A The regular body cement has the longest working time once the joint has been assembled on pipe sizes up to 4" diameter. However, the regular body cement has the quickest set up time before the joint is assembled because of the quick evaporation process. Any pipe sizes over 4" should be discussed with the technical department.

Q **What cements allow for the shortest set-up time for multiple joint assemblies?**

A The heavy duty cement has the shortest working time once the joint has been assembled on pipe sizes up to 4" diameter. However, the heavy duty cement has the slowest set up time before the joint is assembled because of the slow evaporation process. Any pipe sizes over 4" should be discussed with the technical department.

Q **What is the definition of Low VOC?**

A VOC means “Volatile Organic Compound.” Volatile describes a liquid that evaporates at room temperature and Organic is a compound that contains carbon. Low VOC cements and primers are SCAQMD Rule 1168 compliant and UL Greenguard certified.

Q **Can I use green transition cement to join different types of pipe together?**

A Green transition cement can be used to join ABS to PVC or any variation of the two, but only if local building codes approve the application.

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Q **What are the differences between regular, medium and heavy duty cements?**

A Number one is the Viscosity and number two is the pipe size to which it is being applied to.

Q **What is the definition and differences between PVC, ABS and CPVC materials?**

A ABS (Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene) is only used for drainage, waste and vent (DWV) systems. PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) is normally used on DWV systems, but in some cases can be used in pressure fluid applications (check with pipe manufacture for specific application guidelines). CPVC (Chlorinated Poly Vinyl Chloride) is normally used exclusively with pressure fluid systems with a variety of temperatures and pressures (check with pipe manufacture for specific application guidelines).

Q **How do I dispose of solvent cements?**

A You should always check the guidelines set forth by your local municipalities or local fire department for disposal of hazardous materials.

Q **Does Oatey offer cements that will bond High Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Polyethylene (PE), Polypropylene (PP), or PEX?**

A No. Oatey doesn't manufacture any solvent cements or bonding adhesives that will work with these plastics at this time.

Q **Can you use cleaner instead of primer?**

A No. Cleaner is only designed to remove surface dirt and grease from the pipe where as primer actually starts the chemical reaction needed to bond the pipe and fittings together.

Q **How do you separate a joint that has been cemented together and cured?**

A Once a joint is properly assembled it cannot be cleanly separated without distorting or destroying the pipe/fitting. The joint if properly assembled is stronger than the pipe itself, and will have to be cut out and replaced.

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Q **What cement can I use for use with natural gas?**

A Oatey Flowguard Gold #3194 and #3195 can be used in this application. Before starting this application make sure your local gas provider and building officials allow for the use of these products in this application.

Q **Can I use All Purpose Cement to join PVC to CPVC?**

A No. It is not recommended because it takes longer for CPVC to finish the curing process necessary to complete a strong bond after the cement is applied. CPVC is also rated for hot water use which will affect cure times. PVC is not rated for hot water temperatures.

Q **Can I use X-15 cement to glue vinyl fabric together?**

A Yes. Only if the fabric is PVC. If it is CPE, we would recommend Oateyweld. We recommend a completed application test on a small section before applying one of our products to the final assembly when it is not being used for its intended purpose.

Q **Can you use PVC cement to solvent weld electrical conduit?**

A Yes. The Oatey Heavy Duty cements can be used as long as the application instructions are followed.

Q **What is chamfering the pipe?**

A Chamfering is the act of beveling the outside end of the pipe that you will be inserting into the fitting. This keeps the cement from being pushed out of the fitting and causing a weak bond in the joint.

Q **Can you use All Purpose Cement when assembling PVC and ABS pipe?**

A No. Oatey has NSF approved cement for this application called ABS to PVC Transition Green Cement. This transition cement is for applications where the interior building drain and the exterior sewer drain are made of dissimilar plastics, generally ABS and PVC. Check with your local building officials before attempting this application to insure it is approved in your municipality.

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Q **Does Oatey manufacture cements that can be used on lines which carry high and low pH chemical solutions?**

A Yes. Oatey Industrial Grade CPVC and PVC low VOC cements can be used in this application. Please contact the technical department for chemical compatibility for the cements that would be appropriate for the application.

Q **Can I use Oatey CPVC cements for lines which carry Deionized water?**

A Yes.

Q **What cement is used to bond flexible pipe and fittings?**

A Oatey Rain-R-Shine or PVC Flexible cements can be used for this application.

Q **How long do you allow CPVC pipe to cure before introducing fluids and/or pressure?**

A You can use the online charts to calculate the cure time for your specific application. If you need further help with cure times, please contact our technical department.

Q **There is a taste and odor in the CPVC water lines shortly after installation, how can I solve these issues?**

A Oatey cements and primers have outside lab approval for lines that carry drinking water (NSF). The plumbing system carrying the water should be drained by first shutting the water off at the water meter, which is most commonly found in the basement on the front wall facing the street. If you have a home on slab, it should be in the mechanical room with the furnace and water heater. Open all faucet valves and allow the interior piping system to air dry overnight. This will allow most of the remaining vapors from the cement and primer to dissipate and escape. Air movement is a huge plus.

Q **Are Oatey cements safe to use on water lines that carry drinking (potable) water?**

A All Oatey PVC and CPVC solvent cements have been tested to NSF standards and are approved with use on drinking (potable) water systems.

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Q **Can PVC cements be used to assemble CPVC pipe/fittings?**

A No. The PVC cements are too aggressive and will cause probable failure to the CPVC pipe and fittings and if it was used, the joints should be cut out and replaced. If CPVC cement was accidentally used to bond PVC joints, it would not be necessary to replace them but future joints should be assembled with correct cements.

Q **What is interference fit?**

A Interference fit is the pre-assembly test you apply to the pipe and fitting. After pipe is chamfered you will dry fit the pipe into the fitting and you will want resistance between 1/3 and 1/2 way into the fitting. This will allow for a good bond when cement is applied. If there is no interference fit, you should not try to cement the pipe and fittings together.

Q **What should be done with a plumbing system that was assembled using the wrong solvent cement, i.e., CPVC cement on PVC piping, PVC cement on CPVC piping or ABS on CPVC or PVC piping?**

A We cannot support these applications although a semblance of a bond may exist. It is a violation of all plumbing codes to use cements not specified for use with materials it is being applied to for bonding purposes. These joints should be cut out and the approved transition fittings used to finish the application.

Q **If Oatey Green Transition Cement is used to join PVC to ABS, will it meet plumbing codes standards?**

A Oatey has developed this cement specifically for this application and it is UPC and NSF listed. In saying that; we do recommend that you check with your local building officials and see if they have any restrictions on its use. The UPC and IPC codes are a minimum guidelines and each city, county or health department can set forth tougher guidelines which may prohibit the use of transition cement.

Q **How do I remove Tamper Proof Lids off Cleaner and Primer cans?**

A We have posted a direction sheet for this process on our website in the technical bulletin and FAQ sections.

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Q **If I am in the state of California, can I buy the non-SCAQMD compliant cement?**

A All cement products sold into California by Oatey meet up-to-date SCAQMD requirements. SCAQMD requirements have changed effective January 1, 2023. Vendors may continue to sell products manufactured prior to that date through 2025.

Q **How do I know if my product is SCAQMD Rule 1168 compliant?**

A Refer to the VOC limits listed on the back of the can. Solvent cements, primers and cleaners for PVC pipe and fittings containing 425 g/L or less of VOCs are compliant with SCAQMD Rule 1168. For medium body solvent cements for CPVC pipe and fittings, the limit is 400 g/L or less. All cans sold in California by Oatey meet SCAQMD Rule 1168.