

# Chemical Formulations for Acrylic Matt and Acrylic Gloss Paints

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**Abstract:** Paints are used to prolong the life of natural and synthetic materials and to protect it, it acts as a barrier against environmental conditions. Mainly paints are made up of solvent, binder, extenders, pigments(s), and some additives. Solvent can be either organic or inorganic, and it's used as medium to dissolve paint contents together and make it uniform, it can also be used as a thinner. Pigments are used to give color to the paint. Binders are used to hold pigments in place. Extenders have large pigment particles to improve adhesion properties of the paint, and they are also used to strengthen the film and save the binder. The objective is to find the chemical compounds and the literature amounts that makes a good acrylic paint, find chemicals that would potentially lower the scrub resistance, and find additives and chemical compounds that would potentially increase the quality and increase the scrub resistance test for acrylic paints. After researching the chemical properties and role of each chemical compound used in the current formulation and comparing the amounts used to reference values, it has been found that main chemical compounds are missing from the current formulation: pigments, extenders, and another type of pre-emulsion monomer. It also has been found that copious amounts of surfactants 4.5% (2.0% Octyl phenol polyglycol ether sulfate sodium salt, 2.0% Octyl phenol Polyglycol Ether Sulphate Sodium Salt, and 0.5% Provichem) have been causing a low scrub resistance test of current formulation compared to reference.

**Keywords:** Paint Formulation, Paint Ingredients, Matt/Gloss Paints

## 1. Introduction

A company in Saudi Arabia are looking to improve the current formulation for acrylic paints to give a better scrub resistance test after decades of using the same formulation. The current formulation consists of the following chemical compounds, 0.4% Natrosol 250- HHBR, 44.39% water, 0.14% Sodium Bicarbonate, 2.0% Polyoxyethylene 25 octyl phenol, 2.0% Octyl phenol polyglycol ether sulfate sodium salt, 0.5%, Provichem, 2.0% Buyl acrylate, 47% Vinyl acetate, 0.1258% Potassium Persulfate, 0.0234% Tertiary butyl hydrogen peroxide, 0.06% Hydrogen peroxide, 0.05% Sodium formaldehyde sulfoxylate, 1.0% Di butyl phthalate, 0.1% Formaline, 0.05% biocide, 0.1% Silquest A-171 and 0.06% defoamer. The scrub resistance test of the current formulation shows 60% effectiveness compared to the reference, the coat breaks and gloss change was observed

after 60 cycles for the current formulation compared to 100 cycles for the reference [1].

Paints are used to prolong the life of natural and synthetic materials and to protect it, it acts as a barrier against environmental conditions. Paints contain, pigment(s), binder, extender, solvent, and some additives. The pigment is used to give color and opacity. Binders are matrices and are used to hold the pigment in place. Extenders have larger pigment particles to improve adhesion and to strengthen the film and save the binder. Solvent can be either organic solvent or water and is used as a thinner and to dissolve paint components and make it uniform. Additives are commonly used to improve properties of the paint. *Contents of an acrylic white matt emulsion paint is known to be as follows:* Pigments 25%, Extender pigments 12%, Additive 5%, Solvent 44%, and Binder 14%. [2].

To control paint gloss, extender pigments are used. Extender pigments give extra weight to the paint and are low-cost pigments. There are two types of pigments, extender pigments and prime pigments. Prime pigments are those that contribute to both dry and wet hide in paint. There are two main types of prime pigments, inorganic and organic prime pigments. Inorganic prime pigments are earthy colors duller and more durable for the exterior paint application, examples are yellow ochre, umber and red oxide.  $\text{TiO}_2$ , Titanium dioxide provides the actual color within the container. Organic prime pigments aren't very durable for exterior paint application and provides brighter colors, examples are phthalo blue and hansa yellow. An extender pigment is a naturally occurring chemical substance (usually having a white color) that is added to a paint or coating to improve its properties such as durability, cost, and resistance to corrosion or wear.

Ingredients that provide a binding effect that holds the

pigments together as dry film after the liquid solvent evaporates are called binders. Paint binders directly relate to paint performance including gloss retention or fade resistance, washability, adhesion, and scrub resistance. The binder in many emulsion paints is based on homopolymers or co-polymers of vinyl acetate and a propenoate (acrylic) ester. Other acrylic esters used as co-monomers with ethenyl ethanoate are ethyl propenoate, butyl propenoates, or a co-polymer of butyl propenoate and methyl 2-methylpropenoate [3]. Many commercial extenders are glycerin-based. In fact, glycerin is already an ingredient in most acrylic paints. It gives the paint viscosity in addition to extending the drying time. You can heighten this effect by using glycerol mixed with water. Propylene glycol is also used for thicker application. [3].

Binders in various emulsion paints is based on co-polymers or homopolymers of a propenoate (acrylic) ester and ethenyl ethanoate (vinyl acetate) [2].

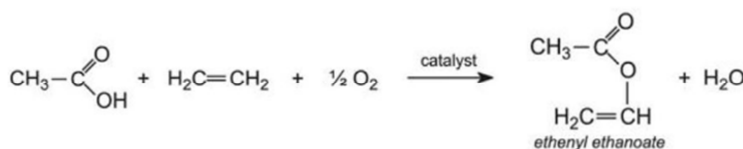


Figure 1. Example for a binder; acrylic ester as co-monomer used in polymerization.

Solvents are liquids that allow paint to be applied to the surface directly from the containers. Solvents allow the uniform combination of binders, considered solids, and pigments with the liquid solvent. Types of liquid solvent depends on the type of paint. For Alkyd paints, the liquid solvent is a thinner and is typically other type of solvent, for Latex paints, water is the main liquid solvent. More solids in the ingredients allow for higher quality paints, 35-40%. How much paint will remain on the surface after liquid solvent is evaporated depends on the amount of solid in the paint formulation. The make-up of the solids effects the overall paint performance. High solids by volume doesn't always give a high-quality product. [3].

To modify the properties of paint and create additional performance properties, additives are used. The percent of additives in the formulation are known to be (01-1%). Additives may include, algaecides, bactericides, anti-settling agents, driers, thixotropic agents, dispersants, silicones and crosslinkers. The molar mass of a polymer is greatly increased by using a crosslinker, silicates, causing the polymer to become a three-dimensional molecule and form a hard film to become resistant to chemical and the environmental conditions. Algaecides are used to protect exterior paint films from being disfigured from lichen, algae, and molds and bactericides are used to preserve water-based paints in their containers. To prevent pigment settling, anti-settling agents (surfactants) may be used. To accelerate drying time, driers are used. thixotropic agents are known to be used to create jelly-like texture of the paint that would break down to liquid when paint brush is placed in it or when stirred. To improve weather resistance, silicones are used. To

stabilize and separate pigments particles and prevent them from aggregating, dispersants are used. [2].

Water-borne emulsion paints are better for the environment than paints made with organic liquid solvents. Emulsion paints are made using emulsion polymerization, and monomers are dispersed in water as an emulsion. The molecular weight of the polymers produced are 500, 000 – 1, 000, 000 amu. For better application for paint, a solvent, thinner, can be used, and it's either water or organic solvent. [2].

An ideal paint has a high scratch and heat resistance, high color stability against ultraviolet and visible light, high water and corrosion resistance, high opacity, has a relative quick drying time and is easily applied to the surface, has a high durability and flexibility, has a good flow out of application and forms a strong protective film. [2].

Surfactants, surface active agents, are compounds that lower the surface tension of liquid or interfacial tension between solid and liquid making them more soluble. Stabilizing effect for latex paints are caused by using a soluble surfactant as they can form micelles and aggregate structure in solutions. In paints, surfactants are used as an emulsifier. Surfactants have a positive and negative role being used in a paint formulation. The positive effect would be stabilizing the dispersion of polymers molecules during emulsion polymerization, improving the mechanical stability of paints, and allowing the paint to coat the surface more easily. The negative effect would be decreasing the resistance of coating as it can be washed out of the coating and enter the environment some of these surfactants are toxic to the environment, problem with adhesion, and loss of optical clarity. Other chemicals in paint can alter the overall effect of

surfactant on paint. The amount of  $\text{TiO}_2$  affect the elasticity in latex paint. Chains that consist of alternating silicon and oxygen atoms, siloxane chains with siloxane tails in polymers have been found to resist hydrolysis and prevent the breakdown of polymer chains, breakdown of polymer chains can cause cracking in paint film. Siloxane are used in soaps, cosmetics, defoamer and deodorants. [4].

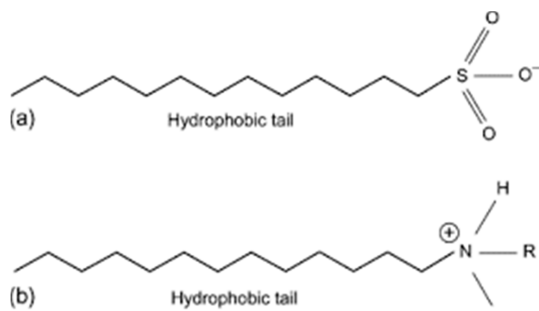


Figure 2. (a) and (b) are the General formula for a surfactant. [4].

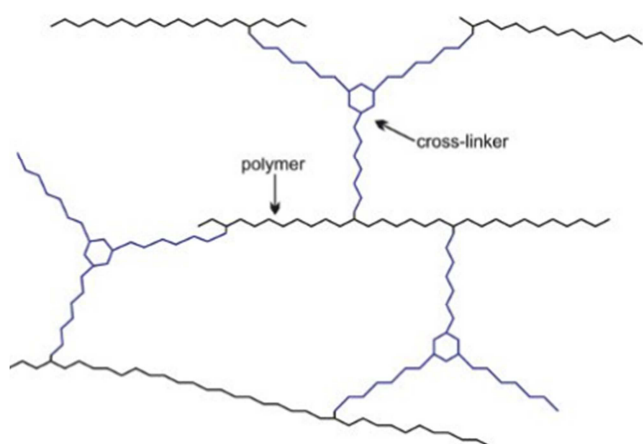


Figure 3. A Crosslinker. [2].

Polymers are of high molecular substances that are made up of small low molecular weight chemical species held together by with a chemical bond called monomers. Polymers are used in coatings, polyurethane, plastics, and they are used as a binder in paints. The first polymer studied by chemists are natural or biological polymers such as protein, starch, and cellulose. Example of polymers would be polyethylene consist of ethylene monomers that are chemically bonded.

Polyethylene is a polymer consisting of thousands of ethylene units. The name polyethylene is a name arousing from the prefix poly, which means 'many' and the monomer name (ethylene). Synthetic polymers can be either condensation or addition polymers based on the method used in synthesizing them. In an addition polymerization, many molecules are linked together by addition reaction. The monomer molecules must be unsaturated, containing multiple bonds that can undergo addition reactions. In a free radical additional, an initiator is used to prepare an addition polymer. An initiator is a compound that can produce a free-radicals, organic compounds with O-O group (peroxides) are

commonly used as initiators. When organic peroxides are heated  $\text{RO-OR}$ , the O-O bond breaks and free radical form (species having unpaired electrons). Alkene monomers would react with the free radical formed and produce another free radical which in turn react with another monomer molecule and produce another free radical molecule in a chain reaction. The reaction terminates when a free radical at the end of the chain react with another free radical. In a condensation polymerization, many monomer molecules are linked together, and a polymer is formed by a condensation reaction, where water molecule is removed by joining two molecules. Example for condensation polymers are polyesters and polyamides. The repeating monomer units are joint together by ester group in polyesters and by an amide group in polyamides. [5].

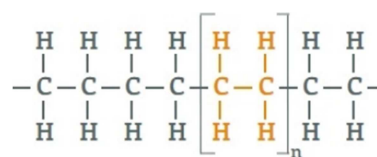


Figure 4. Shown is a piece of polyethylene.

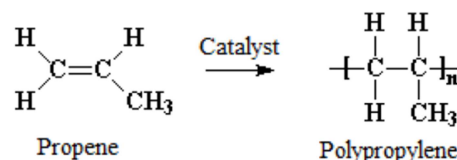


Figure 5. Example for addition polymerization of propene into polypropylene.

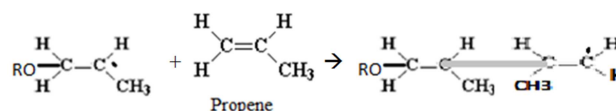
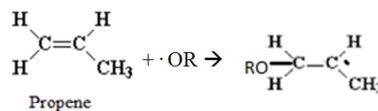
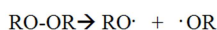


Figure 6. Example for free radical polymerization of propene using organic peroxide.

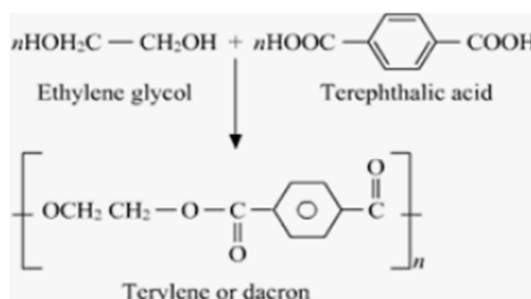


Figure 7. Example for polyester Dacron formed from condensation polymerization of ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid.



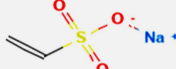
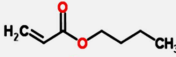
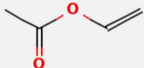
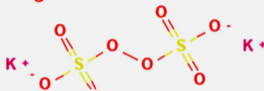



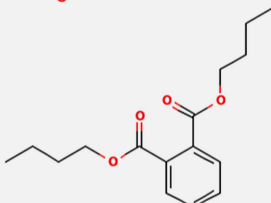

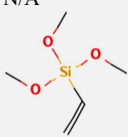
The technological and the physico-mechanical properties of various polymers is dependent on the branching the occurs

in the polymer chain compared to linear polymer. Increase degree of branching in the polymer leads to decrease of strength properties. For example, branched polybutadiene, divinyl styrene, and other branched elastomers exhibits a low elasticity, breaking strength. [25].

Polymers is classified based on its composition into homopolymer and copolymer. A homopolymer is a polymer

that consists of only one monomer. A copolymer can be either alternate, random or block copolymer. Alternate copolymer consists of alternating monomer ab-ab-ab, a block copolymer consists mainly of two or more monomer chains combined, aaaaaa-bbbbbb, and a random copolymer consists of monomers combined in a random array aa-bb-bb-ab-ba. [26].

**Table 1.** Lists the chemical name, molecular formula and molecular weight of chemical compounds used in the current acrylic paint formulation.

Chemical Name	Percent (%) used in the current formulation	Molecular Weight (g/mol)	Chemical Structure	Molecular Formula
Water	44.09	18.902		H <sub>2</sub> O
Natrosol 250- HHBR	0.4	806.9	N/A	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>70</sub> O <sub>19</sub>
Sodium Bicarbonate	0.14	84.007		NaHCO <sub>3</sub>
Polyoxyethylene (25) octyl phenyl ether	2.0	250.379	N/A	(C <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>4</sub> -O) <sub>mult</sub> -C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>22</sub> -O
Octyl phenol polyglycol ether sulfate sodium salt	2.0	Buffer and Surfactant	N/A	Octyl phenol polyglycol ether sulfate sodium salt
Provichem (Sodium vinylsulfonate)	0.5	130.10		C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> NaO <sub>3</sub> S
Butyl acrylate	2.0	128.17		C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Vinyl acetate	47.0	86.09		C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Potassium Persulfate	0.1258	270.33		
Tertiary butyl hydrogen peroxide	0.0234	90.12		C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Hydrogen peroxide	0.06	34.0147		H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Sodium formaldehyde sulfoxylate	0.05	154.12		CH <sub>7</sub> NaO <sub>5</sub> S
Di butyl phthalate	1.0	278.34		C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
Formaline	0.1	30.031		CH <sub>2</sub> O
Biocide	0.05	biocide	N/A	Biocide
Silquesit A-171 (Vinyltrimethoxysilane)	0.1	148.23		C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>3</sub> Si
Defoamer	0.06	Defoamer	N/A	Defoamer
Total Percentage	100	N/A	N/A	N/A

## 2. Experimental

The paint is prepared by emulsion polymerization, where soap, free radical catalyst (potassium persulfate, peroxides) and monomers are emulsified in water. The water soluble free radical catalyst is added to induce polymerization. [24].

Natrosol 250- HHBR [6] with a molecular formula of C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>70</sub>O<sub>19</sub> and a molar mass of 806.9 g/mol is known to be used as nonionic water thickener, a protective colloid,

suspending agent, stabilizer and gives chemical, mechanical stability and controls rheology after, during and before application.

Water, with molecular formula of H<sub>2</sub>O and a molar mass of 18.902 g/mol and is used as a dispensing solvent for emulsion polymerization.

Sodium Bicarbonate, with a molecular formula of NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, [7], and a molar mass of 84.007g/mol is commonly used as a pigment and it dissolves immediately upon addition to the reaction mixture and a thick textured effect is the result,

the more baking soda used, causes the paint to fluff up and become more textured.

Polyoxyethylene 25 octyl phenol [8, 9] is used as a spermicide. Octyl phenol polyglycol ether sulfate sodium salt [10], is used as a surfactant and a buffer in emulsion polymerization, copolymerization and homo-polymerization of monomers, and the sodium salt is used to main PH 6.5-7.5.

Octylphenol Polyglycol Ether Sulphate Sodium Salt can be used in the emulsion polymerization of acrylate and methacrylate esters, styrene, and vinyl esters. Sodium Salt can be used in homo-polymerization as well as in copolymerization of these monomers, the sodium salt maintains a pH level ranging from 6.5 – 7.5.

Provichem [11], Sodium vinyl sulfonate is a surfactant in emulsion polymerization, it produces a copolymer with high water stability.

Butyl acrylate [12], a chemical compound with a molecular formula  $C_7H_{12}O_2$  and a molar mass of 128.17 g/mol is used as a monomer in copolymerization.

Vinyl acetate [13] with a molecular formula of  $C_4H_6O_2$  and a molar mass of 86.09 g/mol is used as the other monomer in homo-polymerization or copolymerization.

Potassium Persulfate [14], with a molecular formula of  $K_2S_2O_8$  and a molar mass of 270.33 g/mol is used as an initiator for free radical polymerization and is also known to be used as a bleaching agent.

Tertiary butyl hydrogen peroxide [15], with a molecular formula of  $C_4H_{10}O_2$  and a molar mass of 90.12 g/mol is commonly used as an oxidizing catalyst.

Hydrogen peroxide, with a molecular formula of  $H_2O_2$  [16] and a molar mass of 34.0147 g/mol is known to be used as initiator in vinyl polymerization in homogeneous system.

Sodium formaldehyde sulfoxylate [17] with a molecular formula of  $CH_3NaO_3S$  and molar mass of 154.12 g/mol is used in redox-reaction polymerization as a reducing agent and as release and stripping agent in textile industry, it is also used in emulsion polymerization as a reducing agent and it can be used in combination with all other oxidizing agents, and the recommended usage would be within the range 0.05-0.2% for post polymerization reactions and it can be dry stored for 12 months at 25°C. [18].

Di butyl phthalate [19] with a molecular formula of  $C_{16}H_{22}O_4$  and a molar mass of 278.34 g/mol, is used in adhesives, printing inks and lacquers as a plasticizer, and it can be used with other phthalates for PVC compounds as a secondary plasticizer.

Formaline [20] with a molecular formula of  $CH_2O$  and a molar mass of 30.031g/mol is used as a preservative in some types of adhesives, such as vinyl and it may result as a by-product from some polymerization reactions. *biocide* [21] is known to be a chemical substance that has a controlling effect on any harmful organism by a biological or a chemical mean.

Silquesit A-171, *Vinyltrimethoxysilane* [22], with a molecular formula of  $C_5H_{12}O_3Si$  and a molar mass of 148.23 g/mol offers silanes and vinyl compounds some functionality

by crosslinking organic polymers, the crosslinked Si-O-Si bond formed are highly resistant to UV light, other chemicals and exposure to moisture. It can also be added as a monomer in emulsion polymerization to form modified silane latexes, functioning as a crosslinker forming stable Si-O-Si bond linkages. [23].

### 3. Discussion

The current formulation consists of the following chemical compounds, 0.4% Natrosol 250- HHBR, 44.39% water, 0.14% Sodium Bicarbonate, 2.0% Polyoxyethylene 25 octyl phenol, 2.0% Octyl phenol polyglycol ether sulfate sodium salt, 0.5%, Provichem, 2.0% Butyl acrylate, 47% Vinyl acetate, 0.1258% Potassium Persulfate, 0.0234% Tertiary butyl hydrogen peroxide, 0.06% Hydrogen peroxide, 0.05% Sodium formaldehyde sulfoxylate, 1.0% Di butyl phthalate, 0.1% Formaline, 0.05% biocide, 0.1% Silquest A-171 and 0.06% defoamer. Additives are chemical substances added in small amounts to the main ingredient to improve some chemical or physical properties of the material being synthesized.

The current acrylic paint formulation consists of mainly of 44.39% water as solvent, 49% pre-emulsion monomers (vinyl acetate and butyl acrylate) and 6.61% additives (Natrosol 250-HHBR, Sodium Bicarbonate, Polyoxyethylene 25 octyl phenol, Octyl phenol polyglycol ether sulfate sodium salt, Provichem, 2.0% Butyl acrylate, Potassium Persulfate, Tertiary butyl hydrogen peroxide, Hydrogen peroxide, Sodium formaldehyde sulfoxylate, Di butyl phthalate, Formaline, biocide, Silquest A-171 and defoamer).

The Current Percentage of each component in the current formulation provided are Pigments (Sodium bicarbonate) 0.14%, Extenders (none used), Additives 6.4629%, Solvent 44.39% and Binders 49%.

The main pre-emulsion monomer used is of only one type of monomer, vinyl acetate and butyl acrylate are only of 2% and is used as an additive in the current formulation. The binder formed from the pre-emulsion polymerization of the monomers used in the formulation would mainly be a homopolymer consisting of vinyl acetate monomers and some butyl acrylate impurities.

The amount of surfactant used as an additive is 4.5%, which is very high and is causing a lower scrub resistance test for the current formulation. The addition of surfactants does not always have a positive effect on all properties. The water resistance of the coating can be decreased with surfactant addition since surfactants can be very water-soluble and will easily wash out of a coating. This problem of moisture resistance is particularly prevalent problem for art conservation, as well as problems with adhesion, loss of optical clarity, and dirt pickup caused by polyether surfactants in contemporary acrylic emulsion used in artworks bearing acrylic coats. While the type and amount of surfactant determine what properties will be affected, other chemicals in a paint can alter the overall effect the surfactants

may have on the paint. Elasticity has been found to either increase or decrease in latex paints depending on the amount of  $\text{TiO}_2$  present.



**Figure 8.** Sheen Scrub Tester used in the scrub resistance test for current acrylic paint formulation.

## 4. Conclusion

The current formulation consists of pigments 0.14% in the form of Sodium Bicarbonate, compared to literature amount 25%, extender pigments weren't used in the current formulation compared to literature amount 12%, surfactants 4.5% compared to literature amount 0-1%, and binders 49% compared to literature amount 14%. The current paint scrub resistance test shows the paint operates 60% effectiveness compared to reference due to missing 40% of main ingredients that makes a good acrylic paint.

Main chemical compounds that would make a good acrylic paint are missing from the current formulation; pigments and extender pigments, and the polymer formed from pre-emulsion polymerization consists mainly of only one monomer. That is causing a low scrub resistance test for the current formulation compared to reference. The missing Chemical compounds from the current formulation; pigments, extender, and another type of pre-emulsion monomer, must be added to the formulation in order to improve the quality of the paint and increase its scrub resistance.

The large amounts of surfactants are used as an additive, 4.5%, has a negative effect to the formulation, causing a low scrub resistance test result compared to reference. It's recommended to avoid using copious amounts of surfactants and it's also recommended to use pigments and extenders in order to form a firm protective layer and prevent the dissolution of paint film from the surface and to improve the scrub resistance test of the acrylic paint.

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