

Explanation of Chalking, Crazing, and Mildew

Urethane
Prepolymers

Explanation of Chalking, Crazing, and Mildew

CHALKING

Chalking is indicated by the presence of loose powder, evolved from the stock itself, at or just beneath the surface. Chalking may be detected by rubbing the film with the fingertip. It can be measured by rubbing a piece of felt or velvet of contrasting color across the sample and comparing the amount of chalk picked up by the cloth with the photographic standards shown in ASTM D-699.

CRAZING (CHECKING)

Crazing is that phenomenon manifested by slight breaks in the surface. The break should be called a "crack" if the underlying surface is visible. For precision evaluation, crazing is described as "microscopic crazing" (as observed with a stated magnification, minimum), "visible crazing" (as seen at close range with the naked eye, 12 inches), and as "distant crazing" (as seen at 3 feet with the naked eye).

MILDEW

Mildew is evidenced by the presence of mold or fungus growth. Two types are common: (1) the spore type which resembles caviar in appearance; and, (2) the mycelium or filament type. A microscope is necessary to distinguish the spore type from dirt collection. When it has reached an advanced stage, the mycelium type is often recognizable with the naked eye, but a microscope is recommended for any examination of the mildew.

Mildew, unlike dirt, is very difficult to remove. In the event there is a question as to the presence of mildew, it is suggested that the sample be washed with water. Dirt will be removed by the water, but mildew will remain imbedded as a dark stain. A heavy chalking compound may be the exception where quite often the early stages of mildew growth are on the loose powder. In this case, the mildew can be removed quite easily as the loose "chalking" is removed.