



More than Just Wood: Low-Temperature-Cure Technology Opens Up a World of New Substrates for Powder Coatings



Nathan Biller
ChemQuest Powder Coating Research

nbiller@chemquest.com

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Presentation Overview

The concept of low-temperature cure powder coatings has loomed since the dawn of powder coating technology. In recent years, novel technology has emerged that can be cured at ever-lower temperatures.



This presentation explores the following:

- Why Low-Temperature Cure?
- Heat-Sensitive Substrates
- Dealing with Conductivity
- Low-Temp Cure vs. Ultra-Low Bake
- Low-Temp Cure – Chemistries
- Ultra-Low Bake – Thermoset Chemistries
- UV-Curable Powder Coatings
- Future Trends



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Deliver distinctive, thorough, actionable, confidential, and professional work and support our clients in every aspect of sustained, profitable growth, including:



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**Technology
Development**



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- For suppliers, manufacturers, and users
- Advanced lab facilities tailored to CASE R&D and polymer processing
- Services from molecular architecture to sophisticated application research
- Client-owned IP
- Education courses to enhance the capabilities and knowledge of your internal team

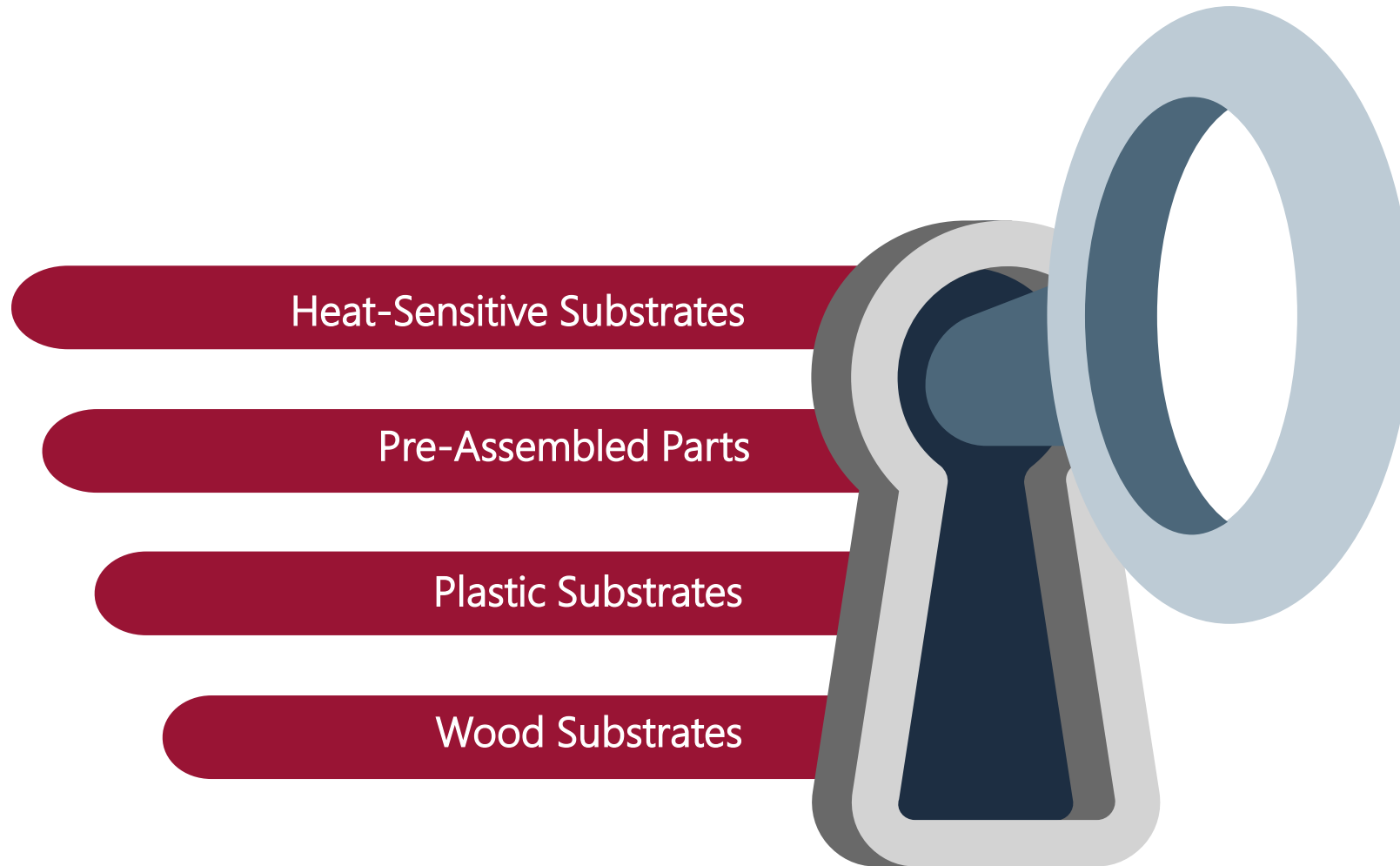
Powder Coating Benefits




- ✓ No VOCs
- ✓ Non-Toxic
No heavy metals
- ✓ Little or No Waste Stream

- ✓ Efficient
Collect and reuse overspray
- ✓ High Performance
- ✓ Excellent Overall Economics

Low-Temp Cure Opportunities




Heat-Sensitive Substrates: Pre-Assembled Parts



Electrical Equipment
Motors, generators,
switchgear

Pneumatic/Hydraulic Equipment
Door closers, jacks, shock
absorbers, suspension parts



**Metal/Plastic
Assemblies**

Gasketed Parts
Plumbing, taps, pumps, valves



Plastic Substrates

Substrate	Composition	HDT (0.46 MPa Load)	Powder Type
ABS	Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene	98°C	UV
Acetal Copoly	Polyoxymethylene (ethylene)	160°C	TS
Acrylic	Acrylic	95°C	UV
Nylon 6	Polyamide	160°C	TS
PC	Polycarbonate	140°C	TS/UV
PC/ABS	Polycarbonate/ABS Blend	80-100°C	UV
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene	85°C	UV
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate	70°C	N/A
PMMA	Polymethylmethacrylate	105°C	UV
PP	Polypropylene	100°C	UV
PS	Polystyrene	95°C	UV
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride	90°C	UV
Noryl GTX	Polyamide/polyphenylene ether	231°C	TS
PEEK	Polyetheretherketone	160°C	TS

Wood-Based Products

Substrate	Composition	Maximum Temperature	Powder Type
MDF	Medium-Density Engineered Board	135°C	TS/UV
HDF	High-Density Engineered Board	150°C	TS/UV
Wood Composites	Wood Pulp plus PVC & HDPE, LDPE	150°C	TS/UV
Closed-Grain Woods	Maple, Beech, Birch, Cherry, Poplar, Rubber Tree	140°C	TS/UV
Open-Grain Woods	Oak, Hickory, Ash	100°C	UV

Applying Powder to a "Non"-Conductive Surface

Thermal Spray (or plasma)
Thickness control

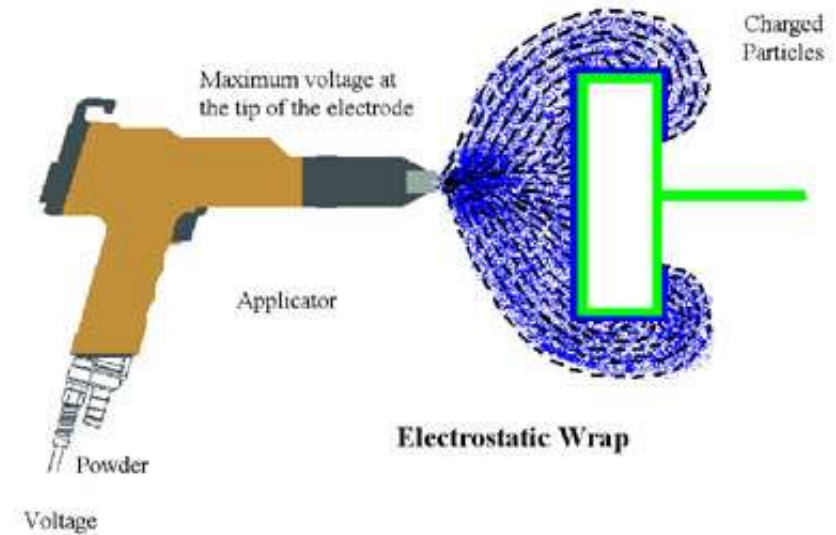
Preheat
Thermal losses

Conductive Primer
Solvent or waterborne?

Conductivity into Plastic
Expensive to incorporate

In-mold Process
Tool is conductive

Conductive Solution
Easy, quick



Low-Bake Thermoset Chemistries



Epoxy

- Homopolymerized
- Latent catalyst
- 10 min @ 125°C



Polyester/Epoxy Hybrid

- High reactivity
- Lower T_g
- 10 min @ 130°C; 1 min @ 180°C



TGIC Polyester

- Exterior durable
- Good storage stability
- 10 min @ 140°C



HAA Polyester

- Limited low-cure capability
- 10 min @ 160°C



Polyester/Urethane

- Triazole-blocked isocyanate
- 15 min @ 160°C



GMA Acrylic

- High GMA (low EEW)
- Polyanhydride cure
- 15 min @ 140°C



Unsaturated Polyester

- Free radical (peroxide) cure
- Divinyl ether crosslinker
- 3 min @ 130°C



Ultra-Low-Bake Thermoset Chemistries: Bio-Based Polyester-Amide

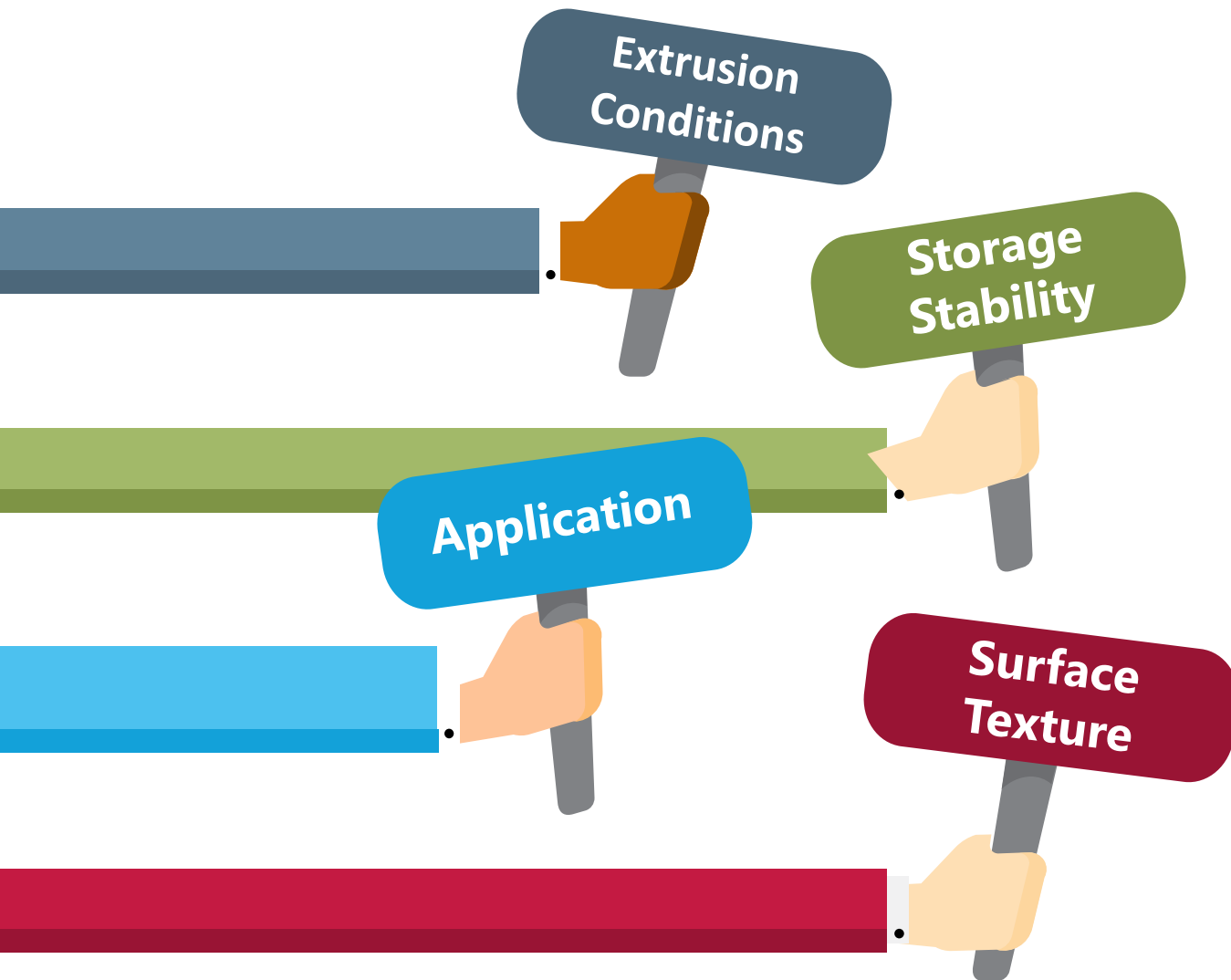


Battelle Technology

- COOH functional
- Cure with TGIC or PT-910
- 85% bio-based COOH polyester-amide resin
- 135-180°C cure window
- Excellent smoothness
- Excellent impact resistance
- Excellent UV durability



Ultra-Low-Temp Cure Caveats



Extrusion Conditions are Critical

- Short dwell time
- Cooler barrel temps

Storage Stability

- May require reefer transportation
- Controlled storage temp and application system
- Shelf-life limitations

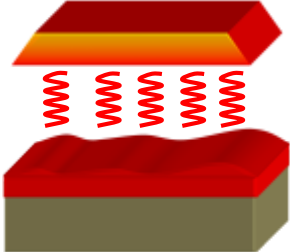
Application

Impact fusion

Smoothness?

The UV Curing Process

Thermal Powder Coating



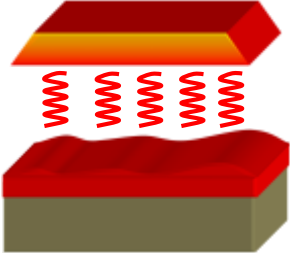
Melt, Flow & Cure
5 to >20 mins
+ cooling



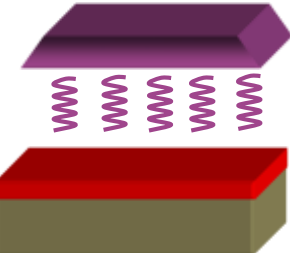
UV Powder Coating

Substrate
Pretreatment

Electrostatic
Powder Deposition



Melt & Flow
1-2 minutes



UV Cure
(seconds)
Minimal cooling



Finished Product



Courtesy of Keyland Polymer

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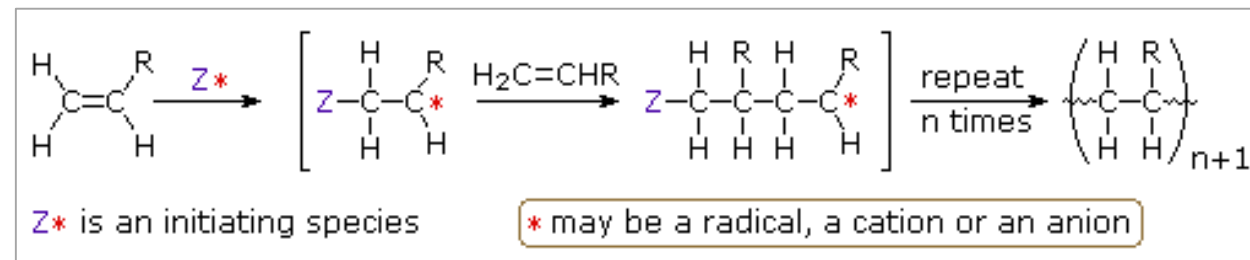
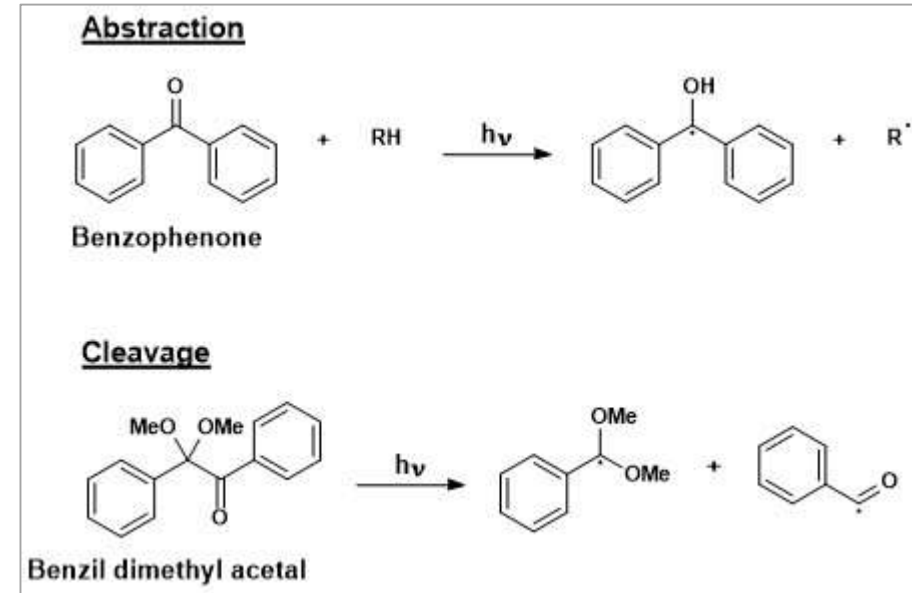


Free-Radical UV Cure

➔ Photoinitiator responds to UV energy, forming free radicals

➔ Chain-growth polymerization is initiated

➔ Can be inhibited by oxygen



Free Radical-Cured Binders



Acrylated/Methacrylated

- Polyester
- Epoxy
- Urethane
- Homopolymerized



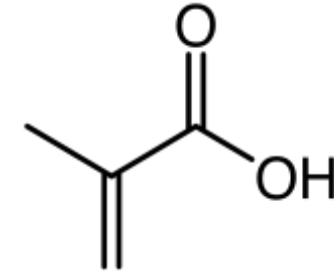
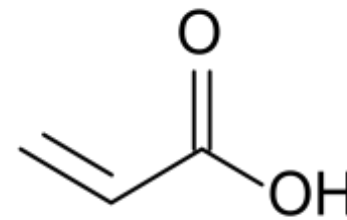
Unsaturated Polyester

- Maleate – vinyl ether copolymerization
- Divinyl ether crosslinker 73:27



Low T_g , Low Melt Viscosity

- Processing conditions
- Storage stability



Benefits of UV Cure



Separates melt from cure



Low processing temperature



Smaller footprint



Lower energy costs



Shorter time



Heat-sensitive substrates
and assembled parts



Drawbacks of UV Cure



Line-of-sight curing



Pigment loading and film thickness limitations



Limited selection of raw materials and chemistry



Transportation and storage stability



Capital expenditure



Material cost

Powder Chemistries: UV Cure vs. Ultra-Low-Bake Thermoset

UV Cure

- Shorter time
- Small footprint
- Lowest energy use

Ultra-Low-Bake Thermoset

- Standard equipment
- All colors/thicknesses
- Low energy use
- More chemistries available



UV Cure

- Line of sight
- Cap ex
- Film thickness
- Physical storage stability

Ultra-Low-Bake Thermoset

- Manufacturing challenges
- Smoothness
- Limited temperature
- Chemical storage stability

Future Trends

Real Michael Addition
(malonate) Chemistry (allnex)
WO-2022236519 – Powder
Coating Composition Blend

More than just MDF
Composites, molded plastics



Low-Temp Cure Summary



Low-temperature-cure (LTC) powders can significantly reduce energy costs.



UV-cure powder coating technology is alive and well.



Ultra-low-bake (ULB) powders open up a world of alternative substrates to the powder coating market.



Novel technology is being introduced by raw material suppliers.



Application to non-conductive substrates schemes are well-known and scalable.



Powder coating producers are investing in the development and commercialization of LTC and ULB powder technologies.





Thank You
Questions? Comments?
Feel free to reach out:

**Nathan Biller, Vice President
ChemQuest Powder Coating Research
nbiller@chemquest.com**

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