

[54] METHOD FOR PREVENTING GELATION OF THERMOSETTING RESINS IN WASTE WATER

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[57] ABSTRACT

A method for preventing the gelation of thermosetting resin glues or varnishes in waste wash water characterized by mixing urea into the waste water which principally contains resorcinol resin obtained by reacting resorcinol with formaldehyde or phenol modified resorcinol resin obtained by reacting phenol, resorcinol and formaldehyde.

3 Claims, No Drawings

resorcinol or to phenol, type of catalysts and amounts added, reaction temperature and time, type of solvents and amounts added, and the like, and also by the amount of paraformaldehyde or formalin added as a hardener. Therefore, in case of practical use, a suitable resin, a suitable kind and amount of hardener should be selected with due consideration given to the object of their usage and the conditions under which they are to be applied. Consequently, in order to prevent or inhibit the gelation of those washings while in storage at ambient temperature, when deciding the proper amount of urea to be added to such waste water it is necessary not only to refer to the free formaldehyde content in such washings but also refer to the amounts of paraformaldehyde or formalin actually used as a hardener, respectively.

The urea is employed in a proportion sufficient to inhibit or prevent gelation, i.e., in a gelation inhibiting proportion. From the foregoing description this proportion is sufficient to prevent the aldehyde content of the waste water from causing gelation.

We have investigated aqueous ammonia, amine compounds or melamine and the like, other than urea for their effectiveness in decreasing the reactivity of the washings containing glues or varnishes of resorcinol resins or phenol modified resorcinol resins, by consuming the free formaldehyde in them. But, aqueous ammonia or amine compounds are excessively malodorous for handling when adding them to those washings, and further, if the mixed amount of aqueous ammonia or amine compounds are somewhat in excess of the theoretical amount required to consume the free formaldehyde, the bad odor of unreacted ammonia or amine compounds remains behind, providing a big problem for the operators at work. In case of melamine, the methylol melamine, formed by the free formaldehyde in the washings decrease the solubility of resins, and the dissolved resorcinol resins or phenol modified resorcinol resins of the waste waters separate. The separation of resorcinol resins or phenol modified resorcinol resins from such washings provides a big hindrance for further treatment in making those washings harmless. Therefore, although the mixing of chemicals such as aqueous ammonia, amine compounds or melamine and the like are effective for preventing gelation of those washings by consuming the free formaldehyde in such wastes from glues or varnishes of resorcinol resins or phenol modified resorcinol resins, they have shortcomings for further processing described above. However, the mixing of urea for preventing the gelation of those washings have the following characteristics which can not be found in other free-formaldehyde-binding chemicals added to those washings: urea prevents the gelation of those washings by reacting rapidly with their free formaldehyde at ambient temperature; there is no unpleasant odor of the chemical while handling the work; and even if the amount of urea mixed is in excess of the theoretical amount required to consume the free formaldehyde in those washings, there is no fear of being forced to slow down the process for treatment.

The following examples are shown so as to explain more concretely the present invention, but the present invention is not restricted by them. "Parts" and "%" described herein refer to "parts" and "percentages" by weight respectively unless otherwise specified.

EXAMPLE 1

(Applied to a laminated wood plant.)

100 Kgs of phenol modified resorcinol resin adhesive (modified ratio of phenol to resorcinol is 30%, molar ratio of formaldehyde per phenol plus resorcinol is nearly equal to 0.6) was made into glue by adding 15 kgs of a hardener (composition ratio: paraformaldehyde/walnut shell powder [filler] \approx 70/30). This glue was spread on lumber of Japanese cypress with a glue spreader, then they were laminated and adhered under pressure for about 24 hours at ambient temperature (20°-25° C), and the laminated wood was completed by finishing further.

After finishing the spreading of the glue, about 2 kgs of such glue remaining adhered to the glue spreader and mixer were washed with about 20 kgs of city water. About 22 kgs of the wash water obtained was collected in a waste water tank installed at the lower part of the glue spreader, and 0.5 kg of urea was added to it and dissolved by 5 minutes agitation at ambient temperature, then left there. Such a washing mixed with urea could be kept in liquid state without gelation for more than 30 days at 40° C. In contrast to the above-described, when urea was not added herein, the washings gelled 2 days later at 20° C. The washing mixed with urea described above was impregnated at 35° C and 4 days later into about 20 kgs of wood waste, then burned in an incinerator using such wood waste as fuel.

EXAMPLE 2

(Applied to a manufacturing plant of residential building panels.)

100 kgs of phenol modified resorcinol resin adhesive (modified ratio of phenol to resorcinol is 70%, molar ratio of formaldehyde per phenol plus resorcinol is nearly equal to 0.65) were made into glue by adding 15 kgs of a hardener (composition ratio: paraformaldehyde/walnut shell powder [filler] \approx 40/60). This glue was spread on the surface of the frame made of Todomatsu (white fir or Abies sachalinensis) with a glue spreader, and, after fixing a Type I plywood of lauan on the surface of such frame with tacks, they were pressure-bonded around 24 hours at ambient temperature, and after further finishing, the residential building panel were completed.

After finishing the spreading of the glue, about 3 kgs of such glue which remained adhered to the glue spreaders and mixers were washed with about 80 kgs of city water. About 83 kgs of the washings obtained herein were collected in a waste water tank installed at the lower part of glue spreader, and 1 kg of urea was added to it, then dissolved by about 5 minutes agitation at ambient temperature and left standing. Such a washing waste water mixed with urea could be kept in liquid state without gelation for more than 30 days at 40° C. When urea was not added herein, the washings became gelled after 4 days when left at 35° C., and after 8 days when left at 20° C. The washing mixed with urea described above was burned in an incinerator using heavy oil as fuel.

EXAMPLE 3

(Applied to a manufacturing plant for skis.)

20 kgs of resorcinol resin adhesive (molar ratio: formaldehyde/resorcinol \approx 0.70) were prepared to glue

by adding 2 kgs of a hardener (paraformaldehyde). This glue was spread on a surface of a phenolic resin laminate With a glue spreader, and the laminate was bonded to the side of heartwood of the ski by pressing 20 minutes at about 80° C.

After finishing the spreading of the glue, about 1 kg of such glue which remained adhered to the glue spreader was washed with about 10 kgs of city water and 2 kgs of methanol. About 13 kgs of the washing waste obtained were collected in a waste water tank installed at the lower part of glue spreader to which was added 0.2 kg of urea, dissolved by about 5 minutes agitation at ambient temperature and left standing. Such a washing mixed with urea could be kept in liquid state without gelation for more than 30 days at 40° C. When urea was not added herein, the washings gelled after 3 days at 35° C., and after 6 days at 20° C. The washing mixed with urea described above were impregnated into about 10 kgs of wood waste, then burned in an incinerator using such wood waste as fuel.

We claim:

1. A method of preventing gelation of waste wash water containing glues or varnishes of resorcinol resins and excess free aldehyde, which consists essentially of adding urea to the waste wash water at ambient temperature in an amount which is sufficient to prevent the aldehyde content of the waste wash water from causing gelation, agitating said waste wash water consisting essentially of urea, water, a resorcinol-aldehyde resin having from 0.5 to 0.8 of aldehyde per mole of of resorcinol, and excess free aldehyde contained in said waste wash water to react said urea with said excess free aldehyde and prevent gelation of said resins in said waste wash water.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the resin is a resorcinol-formaldehyde resin and the aldehyde is formaldehyde.

3. The method claim 1 wherein the resin is a resorcinol-phenol-formaldehyde resin.

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