



The Storage life of Acrylic sheet

TECHNICAL SERVICE REPORT

THE STORAGE OF ACRYLIC SHEET

Acrylic polymer, as such, has an indefinite shelf life if stored under ideal temperate indoor condition. However, the limiting factor on storage is not the acrylic itself, but the cladding films. The principal component of these cladding films is polyethylene. This material is subject to environmental degradation, by oxidation and UV light. In time it embrittles, contracts and splits. In addition to this process, the bond strength on the film onto the acrylic increases with time, due to oxidative hardening of its adhesive.

Ultimately the cladding film becomes irremovable due to these dual processes. This renders the acrylic sheet both unsaleable and unusable.

The speed at which the degradation takes place is highly dependent on the storage conditions. High temperatures and exposure to light will accelerate the process. As a guide sheet should not be held in stock beyond 1 to 2 years, assuming satisfactory storage conditions.

All stock should therefore be the subject of a stock rotation regime to avoid excessive storage times.