

# PLASTIC SUSCEPTIBILITY

## RIGID - SHEET

|           | UV-RADIATION* | LIGHT* | OXYGEN / OZONE | TEMPERATURE (ACCELERATED DEGRADATION OR DISTORTION) | SETPOINT RV (HYDROLYSIS) | CHANGING RV (BLOATING AND SHRINKING) |
|-----------|---------------|--------|----------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ABS       | Red           | Red    | Green          | Green   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| CA        | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | KEEP COOL OR COLD                                   | 20-30%                   | Red                                  |
| CE        | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | Green   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| CF        | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | Green   | Red                      | Red                                  |
| CN        | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | KEEP COOL OR COLD                                   | 20-30%                   | Red                                  |
| EP        | Red           | Red    | Green          | Green   | Red                      | Yellow                               |
| EVA       | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | PREFERABLY BELOW 20 DEGREES                         | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| HVR       | Green         | Green  | Green          | Green   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| MF        | Green         | Green  | Green          | Green   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| NR        | Red           | Red    | Red            | RATHER ON THE COOL SIDE                             | Yellow                   | Red                                  |
| PA        | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | Green   | 50-60%                   | Red                                  |
| PBAT      | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | Green   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| PC        | Green         | Green  | Green          | Green   | Green                    | Red                                  |
| PE        | Yellow        | Yellow | Yellow         | Green   | Green                    | Green                                |
| PET       | Green         | Green  | Green          | Green   | Green                    | Yellow                               |
| PF        | Green         | Green  | Green          | Green   | Green                    | Yellow                               |
| PLA       | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | Green   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| PMMA      | Green         | Green  | Green          | DO NOT STORE BELOW 0 DEGREES                        | Green                    | Red                                  |
| PP        | Yellow        | Yellow | Yellow         | DO NOT STORE BELOW 0 DEGREES                        | Green                    | Green                                |
| PS        | Red           | Red    | Green          | DO NOT STORE BELOW 0 DEGREES                        | Green                    | Red                                  |
| PUR ESTER | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | Green   | Red                      | Yellow                               |
| PUR ETHER | Red           | Red    | Yellow         | Green   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| PVC-P     | Red           | Red    | Green          | MIGRATING PLASTICISERS... ***                       | Green                    | Yellow                               |
| PVC-U     | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | Green   | Green                    | Yellow                               |
| SAN       | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | DO NOT STORE BELOW 0 DEGREES                        | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| SI        | Green         | Green  | Green          | Green   | Green                    | Yellow                               |
| SR**      | Red           | Red    | Red            | Green   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| UF        | Green         | Green  | Green          | Green   | 60-70%??                 | Red                                  |
| UP        | Red           | Red    | Green          | Green   | Red                      | Yellow                               |

\* COLOURED PLASTICS OFTEN FALL INTO THE RED CATEGORY BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE DYE, UNLESS IT IS KNOWN THAT THE DYE IS NOT LIGHT-SENSITIVE, SUCH AS CARBON BLACK.

\*\* SERVING (WITH DOUBLE BAND, =) SUCH AS ISOPRENE ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE, OTHERWISE LOW SENSITIVE.

\*\*\* PLASTICIZERS MIGRATE MORE SLOWLY TO THE SURFACE AT COOLER TEMPERATURES.

**THE PLASTICS IN RED ARE THE PROBLEM PLASTICS. THEY MUST BE HANDLED WITH EXTRA CARE.**

**NOTE:** DEGRADATION MAINLY TAKES PLACE ON THE SURFACE, MAKING FILMS AND THIN MATERIALS GENERALLY MORE SENSITIVE THAN THICKER ONES.

|        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| Green  | LOW SUSCEPTIBILITY     |
| Yellow | AVERAGE SUSCEPTIBILITY |
| Red    | HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBILITY  |

# PLASTIC SUSCEPTIBILITY

## FOAM

|                 | UV-RADIATION* | LIGHT* | OXYGEN / OZONE | TEMPERATURE (ACCELERATED DEGRADATION OR DISTORTION) | SETPOINT RV (HYDROLYSIS) | CHANGING RV (BLOATING AND SHRINKING) |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|----------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| EVA             | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          | LIEFST ONDER 20 GRADEN                              | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| MF              | Green         | Green  | Green          |   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| NR              | Red           | Red    | Red            | LIEVER AAN DE KOELE KANT                            | Yellow                   | Red                                  |
| PE              | Red           | Red    | Yellow         |   | Green                    | Green                                |
| PF              | Green         | Green  | Green          |   | Green                    | Yellow                               |
| PP              | Red           | Red    | Yellow         | KEEP COOL   | Green                    | Green                                |
| PS (XPS, EPS)   | Red           | Red    | Green          |   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| PUR HARD        | Red           | Red    | Yellow         |   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| PUR ZACHT ESTER | Yellow        | Yellow | Green          |   | Red                      | Yellow                               |
| PUR ZACHT ETHER | Red           | Red    | Yellow         |   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |
| PVC             | Yellow        | Yellow | Yellow         |   | Green                    | Yellow                               |
| SR              | Red           | Red    | Red            |   | Yellow                   | Yellow                               |

\* COLOURED PLASTICS OFTEN FALL INTO THE RED CATEGORY BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE DYE, UNLESS IT IS KNOWN THAT THE DYE IS NOT LIGHT-SENSITIVE, SUCH AS CARBON BLACK.

**THE PLASTICS IN RED ARE THE PROBLEM PLASTICS. THEY MUST BE HANDLED WITH EXTRA CARE.**

**NOTE:** FOAMS ARE GENERALLY MORE SENSITIVE THAN SOLID MATERIALS DUE TO THE LARGE SURFACE WHICH IS EXPOSED TO AIR.

**DISCLAIMER:** MANY ARTISTS EXPERIMENT WITH MATERIALS. AS A RESULT, INITIAL SUBSTANCES MAY HAVE BEEN MIXED INCORRECTLY OR DIFFERENTLY AND / OR ADDITIVES MAY HAVE BEEN ADDED THAT MAY ALTER THE PROPERTIES AND DEGRADATION PHENOMENA. PAINT, HEAT, FIRE, GLUE AND TENSION ARE AN EXAMPLE OF THESE.

■ LOW SUSCEPTIBILITY  
■ AVERAGE SUSCEPTIBILITY  
■ HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBILITY

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTIVE PRESERVATION PLASTICS

| UV-RADIATION*  | LIGHT*   | OXYGEN / OZONE                               | TEMPERATURE (ACCELERATED DEGRADATION OR DISTORTION)     | SETPOINT RV (HYDROLYSIS)                       | CHANGING RV (BLOATING AND SHRINKING)  |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| Remove UV-radiation completely, UV-content <math>< 10 \mu\text{W} / \text{lumen}</math>  | ~1 Mlx.h tot 1 jwv<br>Limit light dosage by keeping intensity low and the duration of the exposure short | Preferably store and exhibit with low-oxygen | Adjusted temperature recommended, see sensitivity table | Adjusted RV recommended, see sensitivity table | Limit fluctuations as much as possible. Setpoint $\pm 5\%$                                      |
| UV content <math>< 75 \mu\text{W} / \text{lumen}</math> (light bulb level); dim intensity and filter daylight and fluorescent lamp | ~30 Mlx.h to 1 jwv moderate light dosage, be careful with intensity and duration of exposure             | Keeping cool delays oxidation                | Usual museum temperature 15-25°C                        | Usual museum conditions 40-60%                 | Limit fluctuations. Setpoint $\pm 10\%$ of $\pm 5\%$ with a seasonal fluctuation between 35-65% |
| Avoid extremes   | ~300 Mlx.h to 1 jwv<br>Avoid bright light dosage   | Usual conditions                             | Usual indoor temperature 10-30°C                        | Usual indoor conditions 30-70%                 | Setpoint $\pm 20\%$   |

INFORMATION FROM THE PLASTIC SUSCEPTIBILITY TABLE IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING SOURCES

Ankersmit B., *Klimaatwerk, Richtlijnen voor het museale binnenklimaat*, 2009;

Brokerhof A., *Risicomanagement voor collecties*, 2016

>> ONLINE [www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2016/01/01/risicomanagement-voor-collecties](http://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2016/01/01/risicomanagement-voor-collecties);

Fenn J., Williams R. S., *Caring for plastics and Rubbers*, 2018

>> ONLINE [www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/preventive-conservation/guidelines-collections/caring-plastics-rubbers.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/preventive-conservation/guidelines-collections/caring-plastics-rubbers.html);

van Oosten T., *PUR Facts, Conservation of Polyurethane Foam in Art and Design*, 2011;

van Oosten T., *Het beperken van lichtschade aan museale objecten: lichtlijnen*, 2005

>> ONLINE [www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2005/01/01/het-beperken-van-lichtschade-aan-museale-objecten-lichtlijnen](http://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2005/01/01/het-beperken-van-lichtschade-aan-museale-objecten-lichtlijnen).

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