

Painting K-Flex PE Polyethylene Insulation

Some applications may require that K-Flex PE flexible closed cell polyethylene insulation be painted for aesthetic or labeling / identification purposes. Painting of insulation installed indoors with water based paints will not cause any premature degradation of the insulation, nor will it negatively affect the performance of the product. K-Flex recommends that a high quality exterior grade water-based acrylic latex paint be used. As a best practice we recommend that the paint be initially tested for adhesion on a small portion of the insulation as many tapes, adhesives and paints do not readily adhere to the slick polyethylene surface.

If the insulation is installed in an area that is prone to large temperature variations, due to either ambient temperature swings or process temperatures, then the elasticity of the paint must also be considered. Under these conditions, if the elasticity of the paint is less than that of the insulation, cracking of the paint may occur over time.

In all cases, the insulation surface should be free of dirt, grease, oils and adhesives before painting. For *outdoor* applications, paint should be limited to light colors (white, off-white, beige, light gray, etc.), especially on cold piping systems such as refrigerant lines or chilled water.

Paint should be applied in two coats to minimize holidays and provide paint coating of sufficient cohesive strength to remain in place on the insulation. Paints can be spray, roller or brush applied, and the paint should not be diluted unless required for spray application, in which case the dilution should be kept to a minimum.