New Technologies for Gluing Wood-Cabinets, Furniture, Millwork

Because many of the industrial customers for glues and adhesives have closed or downsized operations, the adhesive suppliers have also been closing, consolidating or downsizing their operations. The result is that many customers are no longer volume buyers who obtained adhesives and service as important industrial customers. This has resulting in users often buying from local retail vendors or ordering off the Internet. One company that has expanded to service small accounts making cabinets, furniture and millwork wood products is Spectrum Adhesives. They provide popular adhesives like PVA, but also industrial products in small quantities like contact adhesives, UF resin glues, resorcinol, splicer and other important wood industry glues. Brian Pitcher is the contact person, phone 800-454-4583 and 800-458-1560, www.spectrumadhesives.com.

PVA’s make up the vast majority of adhesives used in cabinets, furniture and millwork wood products because of their good working properties, affordability and ease of cleanup. They are flexible for interior use and some PVA’s are suitable for exterior uses.

Hot melt glues are the choice for most edgebanding applications and PUR is available when heat resistance is needed.

One of the most common reasons manufacturers experience glue problems is they change the manufacturing process and do not alert the glue vendor. The vendor is the expert in gluing but also each customer needs to develop its own person as the company gluing expert to take responsibility for gluing.

UF resin adhesives still have their place in the industry as they are more economical than PVA’s and have resistance to solvents, heat and water. They have been reformulated to meet governmental formaldehyde requirements. They work best when use in hot presses.

Soybean glues are now available and Columbia Forest Products offers its line of hardwood plywood with soybean glue and markets on the basis of being formaldehyde free.

One rule for shops and factories is that no liquid glue waste can leave the factory. All glue waste must dry out before being discarded. Consult the glue vendor for disposal recommendations. Management should be active to eliminate needed clean up as this is a very large waste of labor.

MSDS sheets are a must to post in the area of use and it is not recommended that the MSDS sheets be only kept in a notebook in the office. Take time to inform employees about the materials in use.

Automation in glue mixing is important and should be investigated on production lines to save labor and improve gluing quality and consistency.

Hot melt machines are expensive to maintain and one is well rewarded to eliminate the need for hot melt gluing. The most common use in casegoods furniture is the sealing of drawer bottoms to the drawer box.

PUR are isocyanine adhesives work well on hard to glue woods and offer exterior products good results. They are expensive and do not work well on production lines.