Release agents for polyurethane foam: a look at the different types and environmental conditions

Release agents for polyurethane foams are a chemical specialty designed for the final application of the product.

TYPE OF RELEASE AGENTS:

SOLVENT BASE	WATER BASE	CO-SOLVENTS	HYBRIDS
Originally, solvent-based release agents were most used. This solutions were not very sustainable. They also were harmful to the health of the workers.	The solutions do not contain VOCs. Thanks to changes in the release agent industry, parts with an improved and drier finish have been achieved.	They contain 75 to 85% water base and 5 to 15% solvent. They have a shorter drying time and are a dispersion of waxes and active ingredients.	Hybrid release agents have 50% water and 50% solvent as vehicle ingredients.

Halfway between solvent-based and water-based release agents there are also:

CONCENTRATED

They allow users to reduce TLVs and VOCs.

ELECTROSTATIC

They help avoid unnecessary losses and reduce consumption and environmental impact.

VOCs and their environmental impact

VOCs, Volatile Organic Compounds, are one of the polluting agents that have the greatest impact on the atmosphere.

TLV and DNEL, indicators to be taken into account for the health of workers

The **TLV**, the Threshold Limit Values, are the concentrations of substances suspended in the air. TLVs mark the conditions to which workers can be exposed without showing adverse health effects.

The **DNEL**, the Derived No Effect Level, measures the substance's potential to cause adverse health effects.