



## Ultra Violet Light & PVC Foam Sheet Materials

Since the first sheet of cellular PVC sheet was introduced back in 1983 the question of colour stability has been raised. This is an issue that appears to remain unclear or at least not fully appreciated by many in the industry.

I will then try and give a concise analysis of the true position:

- White cellular PVC foam sheet does discolour in natural sunlight.
- Coloured cellular PVC foam sheet does discolour in natural sunlight.

The rate and level of discolouration of white sheet is variable by the actual shade of white. The bluer/whiter the product the faster it will appear to discolour. The creamier whites tend to appear to discolour slower but in fact the initial shift is generally slower and then end result should be broadly the same regardless of shade.

The lighter the colour tone the slower it will discolour. For example a beige sheet should discolour slower than a blue sheet. A light blue sheet will appear to fade slower than a dark blue one. Red will fade the fastest with Black a very close second.

Factors that affect the rate of discolouration are:

- Length of exposure time
- Intensity of the light
- Colour density
- Colour

### **Summary:**

The use of coloured PVC foam sheet in areas where exposure to UV light is expected should be avoided if possible. Short-term exposure should be OK but consideration should be given to the choice of colour.

Wherever possible do not use Black, red or Dark Blue.

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