

## USE OF COMPETITIVE ADHESIVES WITH K-FLEX INSULATION

Technical Bulletin TA14 lists adhesives that have been found to provide acceptable performance when used with K-Flex elastomeric insulation. Some of these adhesives are K-Flex branded while others are manufacturer specific and are available through various distribution channels.

Occasionally, we are asked if it is acceptable to use a competitor's adhesive with our insulation products. Most commonly, the adhesive in question is Armaflex 520 adhesive. Armaflex 520 adhesive and K-Flex 320 adhesive are generically equivalent adhesives with comparable levels of performance (as is shown by both the SDS's and technical data sheets for the respective products).

So while these similar products are generally interchangeable, we recommend the use of K-Flex USA adhesives with K-Flex elastomeric insulation for the following reasons:

1. There is no practical performance benefit in using Armaflex 520 versus K-Flex 320 adhesive.
2. K-Flex has the ability to control K-Flex 320 adhesive inventory, assuring that the product is stored properly while in our control, is shipped properly, and has the maximum shelf life remaining. K-Flex can also extend the product shelf life based on a QC evaluation.
3. Single sourcing of insulation and adhesive simplifies the warranty process in the event of a performance issue.
4. There are numerous reasons why an adhesive may not perform as anticipated. These reasons include:
  - a. Adhesive has been frozen
  - b. Adhesive solvent has evaporated due to age or improper storage
  - c. Adhesive was not mixed properly
  - d. Adhesive was applied under adverse conditions (too hot / cold, precipitation)
  - e. Wet or dirty substrate or insulation
  - f. Insufficient tack time
  - g. Adhesive was applied at too great a thickness

It would be the responsibility of the adhesive supplier to determine if any of the above (or others) were the cause of an insulation failure, *not* the insulation manufacturer. Single sourcing of insulation and adhesive prevents any conflict of interest. Please review technical bulletin TA14. K-Flex USA provides its customers with the broadest range of high performance adhesives, and one or more will meet your project requirements.