



Technical Data Sheet

DOWSIL™ 838 Silicone Adhesive Sealant

FEATURES

- Non-flowing
- Room temperature cure
- High elongation for added stress relief
- UL 94HB Flammability Rating

BENEFITS

- No mixing required
- RT cure, no ovens required
- Faster in-line processing with optional heat acceleration
- Added reliability can result from lower cured stress
- Can be considered for uses

One-part, white, non-flowing general purpose adhesive with good flame resistance

APPLICATIONS

DOWSIL™ 838 Silicone Adhesive Sealant application method: Automated or manual needle dispensing systems

- Sealing openings in modules and housings
- Adding mechanical stability to individual components
- Assembly of components on PWBs
- Sealing in and around wired and electrical leads
- Yoke assembly

TYPICAL PROPERTIES

Specification Writers: These values are not intended for use in preparing specifications.

Property	Unit	Result
Extrusion Rate	g/min	199.2
Flow Rate - Slump	in	0
	cm	0.1
Specific Gravity (Cured)		1.02
Tack-Free Time at 25°C	minutes	46
Tensile Strength	psi	270
	MPa	1.9
	kg/cm ²	19
Tensile Modulus	psi	60
	MPa	0.4
	kg/cm ²	4
Durometer Shore A		31
UL Flammability Classification	NA	94 HB

DESCRIPTION

Dow one-part moisture cure adhesives are generally cured at room temperature and in an environment of 30 to 80 percent relative humidity eliminating the need for curing ovens and the associated costs of energy and capital. Greater than 90 percent of full physical properties should be attained within 24 to 72 hours and varies according to product. Faster manufacturing throughput is achieved however since the adhesive and component can be handled in much shorter times of about 10 to 120 minutes depending on the adhesive selected and the amount of applied.

These adhesives are not typically used in highly confined spaces or where a deep section cure is required as they generally cure from the exposed surface inward at a rate of 0.25 inch per seven days. Cure progresses from the outer exposed surface and is dependent on the moisture in the air. Working time is generally a few minutes to an hour for these products until a surface skin begins to form. Mild heat below 60°C (140°F) may be used to increase through-put by accelerating the cure.

Dow silicone adhesives retain their original physical and electrical properties over a broad range of operating conditions which enhance the reliability of and service life of PCB system assemblies. The stable chemistry and versatile processing options of these adhesives offer benefits for a variety of needs from increasing component safety and reliability, reducing total cost or increasing the performance envelope of devices or modules.

HOW TO USE

Preparing Surfaces

All surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned and/or degreased with Dow OS fluids, naphtha, mineral spirits, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) or other suitable solvent. Solvents such

as acetone or isopropyl alcohol (IPA) do not tend to remove oils well, and any oils remaining on the surface may interfere with adhesion. Light surface abrasion is recommended whenever possible, because it promotes good cleaning and increases the surface area for bonding. A final surface wipe with acetone or IPA is also useful. Some cleaning techniques may provide better results than others; users should determine the best techniques for their particular applications.

Substrate Testing

Due to the wide variety of substrate types and differences in substrate surface conditions, general statements on adhesion and bond strength are impossible. To ensure maximum bond strength on a particular substrate, 100 percent cohesive failure of the adhesive in a lap shear or similar adhesive strength test is desired. This ensures compatibility of the adhesive with the substrate being considered. Also, this test can be used to determine minimum cure time or can detect the presence of surface contaminants such as mold release agents, oils, greases and oxide films.

Adhesion

Dow silicone adhesives are specially formulated to provide unprimed adhesion to many reactive metals, ceramics and glass, as well as to selected laminates, resins and plastics. However, good adhesion cannot be expected on non-reactive metal substrates or non-reactive plastic surfaces such as Teflon®, polyethylene or polypropylene. Special surface treatments such as chemical etching or plasma treatment can sometimes provide a reactive surface and promote adhesion to these types of substrates. Dow primers can be used to increase the chemical activity on difficult substrates. Poor adhesion may be experienced on plastic or rubber substrates that are highly plasticized, because the mobile plasticizers act as

release agents. Small-scale laboratory evaluation of all substrates is recommended before production trials are made.

Useful Temperature Ranges

For most uses, silicone elastomers should be operational over a temperature range of -45 to 200°C (-49 to 392°F) for long periods of time. However, at both the low- and high-temperature ends of the spectrum, behavior of the materials and performance in particular applications can become more complex and require additional considerations. For low-temperature performance, thermal cycling to conditions such as -55°C (-67°F) may be possible, but performance should be verified for your parts or assemblies. Factors that may influence performance are configuration and stress sensitivity of components, cooling rates and hold times, and prior temperature history. At the high-temperature end, the durability of the cured silicone elastomer is time and temperature dependent. As expected, the higher the temperature, the shorter the time the material will remain useable.

Solvent

Exposure when liquid or vapor solvent or fuel exposure can occur in an application, the silicone adhesive discussed in this brochure is intended only to survive splash or intermittent exposures. It is not suited for continuous solvent or fuel exposure. Testing should be done to confirm performance of the adhesives under these conditions.

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USABLE LIFE AND STORAGE

DOWSIL 838 Silicone Adhesive Sealant should be stored at or below at or below room temperature (away from direct sunlight), maximum 25°C (77°F) in original, unopened containers.

Containers should be kept tightly closed with head or air space minimized. Partially filled containers should be purged with dry air or other gases, such as nitrogen.

LIMITATIONS

This product is neither tested nor represented as suitable for medical or pharmaceutical uses.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

To support customers in their product safety needs, Dow has an extensive Product Stewardship organization and a team of product safety and regulatory compliance specialists available in each area.

For further information, please see our website, www.consumer.dow.com or consult your local Dow representative.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU TODAY?

Tell us about your performance, design, and manufacturing challenges. Let us put our silicon-based materials expertise, application knowledge, and processing experience to work for you.

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