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(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Coating compositions containing coalescents and a latex polymer, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% and is dispersible in the coating composition.



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COATING COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING LOW VOC COMPOUNDS

BACKGROUND

Coating compositions, such as paints, that include latex polymer
10 particles typically also include a coalescent (i.e., coalescing agent or film-
forming agent) in addition to pigments and fillers. The coalescent functions as a
solvent as well as a plasticizer for the polymer particles to soften the latex
polymer particles and assist in the formation of a continuous coating or film
after applying to a surface and allowing to dry.

15 Useful coalescents are generally stable in the presence of water,
compatible with other ingredients typically used in paint formulations,
particularly the latex polymers, such that the stability of the latex-based
composition is not compromised. They are also typically sufficiently volatile to
escape when the applied coating composition is allowed to dry, but sufficiently
20 nonvolatile to evaporate more slowly than other ingredients (e.g., drying
retarders, antifreezes) that delay film formation. However, there is a general
desire in the industry to reduce volatile organic emissions, thereby reducing the
environmental and health concerns.

Governments have established regulations setting forth guidelines
25 relating to volatile organic compounds that may be released into the
atmosphere. To reduce the level of volatile organic compounds, new high
solids coating compositions have been developed as well as powder coating
compositions that do not include volatile compounds, have a reduced
concentration of volatile compounds, or incorporate compounds having a lower
30 volatility. Reducing the volatility of coalescents, solvents, plasticizers, etc. can

adversely affect the balance of properties needed in a latex-based coating composition, however. Thus, there is a need for coalescents, solvents, plasticizers, etc. that can be used in coating compositions, such as paints, that do not compromise stability, compatibility, film formation ability, or the desirable
 5 properties of the applied coating, etc.

SUMMARY

The present invention provides a class of compounds that have a relatively low volatile organic content. Such compounds can be used in coating
 10 compositions, preferably paints, as coalescing agents, solvents, plasticizers, etc. A suitable coalescent is dispersible in the coating composition, which is preferably stable over time. Preferably, the compound, when used as a coalescent, facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C (more preferably, at about 4°C to about
 15 10°C, and most preferably, at about 4°C to about 5°C). Thus, there is provided a coating composition that includes a latex polymer and a coalescent (which can also function as a solvent or a plasticizer). Such coating compositions can be coated onto a substrate and dried, as with a paint, for example.

In one embodiment, a coating composition (preferably, a paint) includes:
 20 a latex polymer; and a coalescent having the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X_r-O)_n-R^2$ wherein: R^1 is an organic group (preferably, having less than 100 carbon atoms); X is a divalent organic group (preferably, having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, and more preferably, 3 to 5 carbon atoms); r is 0 to 1; n is 1 to 10 (preferably, n is 1 to 5, more preferably, n is 1 to 3, and most preferably, n is 2 to 3); and R^2 is
 25 hydrogen or an organic group (preferably, having less than 100 carbon atoms); with the proviso that R^1 includes at least three carbon atoms when X is not $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 2 to 8; with the proviso that the coalescent has less than two aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds when r is zero (preferably, the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds when r is
 30 zero, and more preferably, the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds); wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% (preferably, less than about 30%, more preferably, less than

about 20%, and most preferably, less than about 15%) and is dispersible in the coating composition. Preferably, r is one.

In another embodiment, a coating composition includes: a latex polymer; and a coalescent having the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X_r-O)_n-R^2$ wherein: R^1 is an organic group; X is a divalent organic group; r is 0 to 1; n is 1 to 10; and R^2 is hydrogen or an organic group; with the proviso that R^1 includes at least three carbon atoms when X is not $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 2 to 8; with the proviso that the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds; with the proviso that r is one when R^2 is H; wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50%, is dispersible in the coating composition, and facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C (preferably, at a temperature of about 4°C to about 10°C, and more preferably, at a temperature of about 4°C to about 5°C).

In another embodiment, a coating composition includes: a latex polymer; and a coalescent having the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X_r-O)_n-R^2$ wherein: R^1 has the formula $R^3-(CH_2)_m-(O(CH_2)_p)_q-$ wherein R^3 is an alkyl or aryl group, m is 0 to 24, p is 1 to 4, and q is 0 to 50; X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8; r is 0 to 1; n is 1 to 10; and R^2 is hydrogen or R^1 ; wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50%, is dispersible in the coating composition, and facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C (preferably, at a temperature of about 4°C to about 10°C, and more preferably, at a temperature of about 4°C to about 5°C).

In yet another embodiment, a coating composition includes: a latex polymer; and a coalescent having the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X-O)_n-H$ wherein: R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof; X is a divalent hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygen atoms and carbonyl groups; and n is 1 to 10; wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% (preferably, less than about 30%) and is dispersible in the coating composition.

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In still another embodiment, a coating composition includes: a latex polymer; and a coalescent having the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X-O)_n-H$ wherein: R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof; X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8; and n is 1 to 10; wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% (preferably, less than about 30%) and is dispersible in the coating composition.

In another embodiment, a coating composition includes: a latex polymer; and a coalescent having the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X-O)_n-H$ wherein: R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygens; X is an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygens and carbonyl groups; and n is 1 to 10; wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% (preferably, less than about 30%) and is dispersible in the coating composition.

In a particular aspect, the invention provides a coating composition, comprising: a latex polymer; and a coalescent having the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X-O)_n-R^2$ wherein: R^1 is a group selected from an aliphatic group, a cyclic group, and a combination thereof, wherein the cyclic group is an alicyclic group or a heterocyclic group; X is a divalent organic group; n is 1 to 10; and R^2 is hydrogen or an organic group; with the proviso that R^1 includes at least three carbon atoms when X is not $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8; wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content (VOC) of less than about 15% measured by weighing approximately 0.5 g of the coalescent into an aluminum weighing dish, placing it in a forced air oven at 110°C for one hour,

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reweighing it and determining the mass loss in % VOC; and is dispersible in the coating composition.

In a further particular aspect, the invention provides a coating composition comprising: a latex polymer; and a coalescent having the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X-O)_n-H$ wherein: R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof; X is a divalent hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygen atoms and carbonyl groups; and n is 1 to 10; wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content (VOC) of less than about 15% measured by weighing approximately 0.5 g of the coalescent into an aluminum weighing dish, placing it in a forced air oven at 110°C for one hour, reweighing it and determining the mass loss in % VOC; and is dispersible in the coating composition.

The present invention also provides methods of coating that include: providing a coating composition as described herein; applying the coating composition to a substrate (e.g., wall); and allowing the coating composition to dry.

DEFINITIONS

The term "dispersible" in the context of a dispersible coalescent means that the coalescent can be mixed into the coating composition to form a uniform mixture without the use of high shear mixing.

The term "stable" in the context of a coating composition containing a dispersible coalescent means that the coalescent does not phase separate from the coating composition upon standing at 120°F (49°C) for four weeks.

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The term "volatile organic content" and "VOC" herein mean the volatility of the compound as measured by ASTM method D2369-90.

The term "organic group" means a hydrocarbon
5 (i.e., hydrocarbyl) group with optional elements other than carbon and hydrogen in the chain, such as oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, and silicon that is classified as an aliphatic group,

cyclic group, or combination of aliphatic and cyclic groups (e.g., alkaryl and aralkyl groups). The term "aliphatic group" means a saturated or unsaturated linear or branched hydrocarbon group. This term is used to encompass alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl groups, for example. The term "alkyl group" means a
5 saturated linear or branched hydrocarbon group including, for example, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, t-butyl, heptyl, dodecyl, octadecyl, amyl, 2-ethylhexyl, and the like. The term "alkenyl group" means an unsaturated linear or branched hydrocarbon group with one or more carbon-carbon double bonds, such as a vinyl group. The term "alkynyl group" means an unsaturated linear or branched
10 hydrocarbon group with one or more carbon-carbon triple bonds. The term "cyclic group" means a closed ring hydrocarbon group that is classified as an alicyclic group, aromatic group, or heterocyclic group. The term "alicyclic group" means a cyclic hydrocarbon group having properties resembling those of aliphatic groups. The term "aromatic group" or "aryl group" means a mono- or
15 polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon group. The term "heterocyclic group" means a closed ring hydrocarbon in which one or more of the atoms in the ring is an element other than carbon (e.g., nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur, etc.).

Substitution is anticipated on the organic groups of the coalescents used in the coating compositions of the present invention. As a means of simplifying
20 the discussion and recitation of certain terminology used throughout this application, the terms "group" and "moiety" are used to differentiate between chemical species that allow for substitution or that may be substituted and those that do not allow or may not be so substituted. Thus, when the term "group" is used to describe a chemical substituent, the described chemical material
25 includes the unsubstituted group and that group with O, N, Si, or S atoms, for example, in the chain (as in an alkoxy group) as well as carbonyl groups or other conventional substitution. Where the term "moiety" is used to describe a chemical compound or substituent, only an unsubstituted chemical material is intended to be included. For example, the phrase "alkyl group" is intended to
30 include not only pure open chain saturated hydrocarbon alkyl substituents, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, t-butyl, and the like, but also alkyl substituents bearing further substituents known in the art, such as hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylsulfonyl,

halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, amino, carboxyl, etc. Thus, "alkyl group" includes ether groups, haloalkyls, nitroalkyls, carboxyalkyls, hydroxyalkyls, sulfoalkyls, etc. On the other hand, the phrase "alkyl moiety" is limited to the inclusion of only pure open chain saturated hydrocarbon alkyl substituents, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, t-butyl, and the like. The term "hydrocarbyl moiety" refers to unsubstituted organic moieties containing only hydrogen and carbon.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention is directed to coating compositions that include coalescents, which can optionally also function as plasticizers and/or solvents, and coatings prepared therefrom. Preferably, the coating compositions are in the form of paints. Preferably, such coating compositions include a polymer, preferably, a latex polymer, in addition to one or more coalescents. The coalescent is dispersible in the coating composition which is preferably stable over time (i.e., the coalescent does not phase separate from the coating composition upon standing at 49°C for four weeks).

The coating compositions of the present invention are advantageous in that they have a relatively low volatile organic content without sacrificing the balance of properties desired for an applied (i.e., dry) coating, such as a paint. For example, the coating compositions of the present invention provide an applied coating having a preferred scrub resistance, as determined by the test set forth in the Examples Section herein below, of at least about that of TEXANOL, which is an alcohol/ester made from trimethylpentane diol and isobutyric acid $((\text{H}_3\text{C})_2\text{-CH-C(O)-O-CH}_2\text{-C(CH}_3)_2\text{-CH}_2\text{(OH)-CH(CH}_3)_2)$.

Preferably, the coating compositions include a compound having a relatively low volatile organic content (VOC), and more preferably, a relatively low molecular weight. Typically, the volatile organic content, as determined by the test set forth in the Examples Section herein below, is no greater than about 50%, preferably, no greater than about 30%, more preferably, no greater than about 20%, and most preferably, no greater than about 15%, based on the original weight of the coalescent. Preferably, the number average molecular

weight of such compounds is no greater than about 750, and more preferably, less than about 500.

Preferably, such compounds are good coalescents. That is, they preferably and advantageously provide good film forming properties for a latex polymer. More preferably, a particularly desirable group of compounds are those that provide good film forming properties at low temperatures (e.g., below room temperature), as determined by the test set forth in the Examples Section herein below. Preferably, such compounds facilitate the formation of polymer films of a latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C (more preferably, at a temperature of about 4°C to about 10°C, and most preferably, at a temperature of about 4°C to about 5°C).

Preferably, such low VOC compounds are of the formula $R^1-(C(O)-X_r-O)_n-R^2$ wherein: n is 1 to 10; R^1 is an organic group, preferably, having less than 100 carbon atoms, and more preferably, having 3 to 24 carbon atoms; R^2 is hydrogen or an organic group, preferably, having less than 100 carbon atoms; and X is a divalent organic group, preferably, having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, and more preferably, 3 to 5 carbon atoms; and r is 0 to 1. Preferably, n is 1 to 5, more preferably, n is 1 to 3, and most preferably, n is 2 to 3.

Preferably, R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety, although for certain preferred embodiments R^1 is an organic group that includes substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof, more preferably, substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof, and most preferably, nonperoxidic oxygen atoms. For certain embodiments, R^1 has the formula $R^3-(CH_2)_m-(O(CH_2)_p)_q-$ wherein R^3 is an alkyl or aryl group, m is 0 to 24, p is 1 to 4 (preferably, p is 1 to 2), and q is 0 to 50. In this preferred formulation for R^1 , $m + pq$ is preferably less than about 23.

Preferably, X is a divalent hydrocarbyl moiety, although for certain preferred embodiments, X is an organic group that includes substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, and combinations thereof, and more preferably, nonperoxidic oxygen atoms and

carbonyl groups. For certain embodiments, X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 2 to 8, and preferably, s is 3 to 5.

Preferably, R^2 is hydrogen, although for certain preferred embodiments R^2 is R^1 as defined above. For certain embodiments, r is one, preferably when
5 R^2 is hydrogen.

For certain embodiments, R^1 includes at least three carbon atoms when X is not $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 2 to 8; and R^1 and R^2 together (i.e., the coating composition) include less than two aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds when r is zero, preferably, R^1 and R^2 together (i.e., the coating composition) do
10 not include any aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds when r is zero, and more preferably, R^1 and R^2 together (i.e., the coating composition) do not include any aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds.

For certain embodiments, R^1 is an organic group having 3 to 24 carbon atoms and substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl
15 groups, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof; and R^2 is hydrogen.

A preferred group of such compounds have the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X_r-O)_n-R^2$ wherein: R^1 is an organic group; X is a divalent organic group; r is 0 to 1; n is 1 to 10; and R^2 is hydrogen or an organic group; with the proviso that R^1 includes at least three carbon atoms when X is not $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 2 to 8;
20 with the proviso that the coalescent has less than two aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds when r is zero. Such compounds can be made from caprolactone and an alcohol, for example.

Another preferred group of such compounds have the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X_r-O)_n-R^2$ wherein: R^1 is an organic group; X is a divalent organic
25 group; r is 0 to 1; n is 1 to 10; and R^2 is hydrogen or an organic group; with the proviso that R^1 includes at least three carbon atoms when X is not $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 2 to 8; with the proviso that the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds; with the proviso that r is one when R^2 is hydrogen.

30 Another preferred group of such compounds have the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X_r-O)_n-R^2$ wherein: R^1 has the formula $R^3-(CH_2)_m-(O(CH_2)_p)_q-$ wherein R^3 is an alkyl or aryl group, m is 0 to 24, p is 1 to 4, and q is 0 to 50; X has the

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formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8; r is 0 to 1; n is 1 to 10; and R^2 is hydrogen or R^1 .

Another preferred group of such compounds have the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X-O)_n-H$ wherein: R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof; X is a divalent hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygen atoms and carbonyl groups; and n is 1 to 10. Such compounds can be made from a glycidyl ester of neodecanoic acid (e.g. CARDURA E10TM) and a carboxylic acid, for example.

Another preferred group of such compounds have the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X-O)_n-H$ wherein: R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof; X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8; and n is 1 to 10.

Another preferred group of such compounds have the formula: $R^1-(C(O)-X-O)_n-H$ wherein: R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygens; X is an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygens and carbonyl groups; and n is 1 to 10.

These compounds can be formed using standard organic synthesis techniques, which are well known to one of skill in the art. Specific syntheses are set forth in the Examples Section herein below.

The preferred polymers of the coating compositions of the present invention include latex polymers (i.e., latices). These are well known in the paint art and are typically particles emulsified or suspended in an aqueous medium. They include, for example, the polymerization products of ethylenically unsaturated monomers, such as alkyl and alkoxy acrylates or methacrylates, vinyl esters of saturated carboxylic acids, monoolefins, conjugated dienes, optionally with one or more monomers, such as, for example, styrene, methyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, vinyl acetate, acrylonitrile, and vinyl chloride. The latex polymers can have a wide range of glass transition temperatures, depending on the desired properties of the resultant coating.

The amount of polymers and the low VOC compounds (e.g., coalescents) present in the coating compositions of the present invention include an amount that provides the desired result. Preferably, one or more relatively low VOC compounds, which preferably function as coalescents, are present in a coating composition in an amount of at least about 1 percent by weight (wt-%), more preferably, at least about 2 wt-%, and most preferably, at least about 5 wt-%, based on polymer solids. Preferably, one or more relatively low VOC compounds are present in a coating composition in an amount of no greater than about 50 wt-%, and more preferably, no greater than about 25 wt-%, based on polymer solids. When mixtures of such coalescents are used, the numerical values of the variables in the formulas described herein are averages.

Other components of the coating compositions of the present invention include those typically used in paint formulations, such as pigments, fillers, thickeners, biocides, mildewcides, surfactants, dispersants, defoamers, and the like. The coating compositions can be made using standard techniques known in the paint industry.

EXAMPLES

The following examples are offered to aid in understanding of the present invention and are not to be construed as limiting the scope thereof. Unless otherwise indicated, all parts and percentages are by weight.

VOC TESTING:

Testing of coalescents were performed using ASTM method D2369-90. Approximately 0.5 gram (g) of coalescent was weighed into an aluminum weighing dish and placed in a forced air oven at 110°C for 1 hour. The dish was then reweighed and the mass lost represents the percent (%) VOC of the coalescent.

SCRUB RESISTANCE:

The coating was drawn down on a black vinyl scrub test chart (available from the Leneta Company) with a standard 3-mil (0.0762 millimeter (mm)) Bird film applicator (available from Byk Gardner). The film was allowed to dry at

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room temperature for 7 days. Scrub resistance was measured with a Gardner Abrasion Tester (available from Byk Gardner) using 10 g of scrub media. The number of cycles until the coating film was first removed was recorded.

5 LOW TEMPERATURE COALESCENCE (LTC):

The coating was drawn down on a Penopac paper chart (available from the Leneta Company) with a standard 3-mil Bird film applicator. The chart was then put in the refrigerator at 40°F (4.4°C) until dry. Coating films that did not exhibit any cracking were determined to pass. Any cracking of the film was
10 considered a failure.

EXAMPLE 1

PREPARATION OF COALESCENT COMPOUNDS

15 RUN 1. PREPARATION OF COALESCENT

Epsilon-caprolactone (2-oxepanone) (174 g), 1-dodecanol (173 g), and FASCATTM 2003 (stannous octoate, available from Atofina Chemicals) (0.2 g) were charged to a 4-neck 500-mL round bottom flask fitted with mechanical stirring. The contents of the flask was heated to 150°C and held until the free
20 caprolactone level was below 0.5% as measured by GC (approximately four hours), then cooled to room temperature.

RUNS 2-20. PREPARATION OF COALESCENTS

A variety of coalescents were prepared following the procedure of
25 Example 1, Run 1, with the exception that the 174 g caprolactone was varied according to the amount listed in Table 1A, and the 173 g of 1-dodecanol used in Example 1, Run 1 was replaced with the alcohol and amount listed in Table 1A.

Table 1A

Run	Alcohol	caprolactone (grams)/ alcohol(grams)	Molar Ratio Caprolactone:Al cohol	%VOC
1	1-dodecanol	174/173	1.64:1	7.0%
2	1-dodecanol	200/163	2:1	6.0%
3	1-dodecanol	225/147	2.5:1	4.0%
4	1-dodecanol	240/130.5	3:1	3.0%
5	1-dodecanol	265/108	4:1	2.0%
6	benzyl alcohol	228/108	2:1	9.0%
7	2,2,4-trimethyl -1,3- pentane diol (TMPD)	196/140	1.7:1	15%
8	2-ethylhexanol, 2 mol EO	157/200	1.5:1	10%
9	2-amino-2-methyl-1- propanol (AMP-95)	228/71.2	2.5:1	3.0%
10	1-hexanol	228/81.8	2.5:1	5.0%
11	2-butoxyethanol (butyl cellosolve)	228/94.4	2.5:1	8.0%
12	1-butanol	228/74.1	2.5:1	7.0%
13	2(2-butoxyethoxy) ethanol (butyl carbitol)	228/129.8	2.5:1	9.0%
14	1-octanol	228/104.2	2.5:1	5.0%
15	2-propoxyethanol (propyl cellosolve)	228/83.2	2.5:1	9.0%
16	1-propanol	228/48	2.5:1	11.0%
17	2-butyl-2ethyl-1,3 propanediol	174/98	2.5:1	3.5%
18	1,3-butanediol	228/72	2.5:1	3.0%
19	2-methoxyethanol (methyl cellosolve)	228/60.8	2.5:1	7.0%
20	2-ethoxyethanol (cellosolve)	228/72.1	2.5:1	7.5%

*TEXANOL is 99.5% VOC by this method

EXAMPLE 2

PREPARATION OF COALESCENT COMPOUNDS

RUN 1. PREPARATION OF COALESCENT FROM CARDURA E10

5 CARDURA E10 (glycidyl ester of neodecanoic acid, available from Shell Chemical) (228 g) was charged to a 4-neck 500-mL round bottom flask equipped with mechanical stirring. The flask was heated to 140°C and 88 g isobutyric acid was fed into the flask over 90 minutes. The contents of the flask were held at 140°C for 2 hours and cooled to room temperature.

10

RUNS 2-3. PREPARATION OF COALESCENTS

A variety of coalescents were prepared following the procedure of Example 2, Run 1, with the exception that the 88 g of isobutyric acid used in Example 2, Run 1 was replaced with the acid listed in Table 2A.

15

Table 2A

Run	Acid	Amount (Grams)	%VOC
1	Isobutyric acid	88	7.0%
2	Acetic acid	60	9.0%
3	Propionic acid	74	10.0%

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EXAMPLE 3

PREPARATION OF COATING COMPOSITIONS

5 Various coating compositions were prepared by mixing the ingredients listed in Table 3A. For each composition the coalescent is as described in Examples 1 and 2.

Table 3A

Material	Description	Grams
Water		62.0
Ethylene glycol		35.0
AMP-95	Amine, Angus	1.0
TAMOL™ 731	Dispersant, Rohm&Haas	10.0
DEHYDRAN™ 1620	Defoamer, Cognis	1.0
RCL-535	TiO ₂ , Millennium	245.0
KATHON™ LX 1.5%	Biocide, Rohm&Haas	1.7
Emulsion polymer		453
Ammonium hydroxide		2.0
Coalescent		26.3
Ethylene glycol		20.9
SURFYNOL 504	Surfactant, Air Products	1.0
ACRYSOL™ RM-2020NPR	Thickener, Rohm&Haas	4.0
ACRYSOL RM-6	Thickener, Rohm&Haas	31.0
FOAMASTER™ SA-3	Defoamer, Cognis	3.5
Water		156.0

Table 3B

Example 1, Run	Alcohol	Molar Ratio Caprolactone:A lcohol	Scrub (relative to TEXANOL)	LTC
1	1-dodecanol	1.7:1	1.27	Pass
2	1-dodecanol	2:1	1.09	Pass
3	1-dodecanol	2.5:1		Pass
4	1-dodecanol	3:1	1.07	Pass
5	1-dodecanol	4:1	0.71	Pass
6	Benzyl alcohol	2:1		Pass
7	2,2,4-Trimethyl – 1,3-pentane diol (TMPD)	1.7:1	0.81	Pass
8	2-ethylhexanol, 2 mol EO	1.5:1	0.96	Pass
9	2-amino-2- methyl-1- propanol (AMP- 95)	2.5:1		Fail
10	1-hexanol	2.5:1	1.10	Pass
11	2-butoxyethanol (butyl cellosolve)	2.5:1	1.35	Pass
12	1-butanol	2.5:1	1.27	Pass
13	2(2- butoxyethoxy)eth anol (butyl carbitol)	2.5:1		Pass
14	1-octanol	2.5:1		Pass
15	2-propoxyethanol (propyl cellosolve)	2.5:1		Pass
16	1-propanol	2.5:1		Pass
17	2-butyl-2ethyl-1,3 propanediol	2.5:1		Pass
18	1,3-butanediol	2.5:1		Fail
19	2-methoxyethanol (methyl cellosolve)	2.5:1		Pass
20	2-ethoxyethanol (cellosolve)	2.5:1		Pass

TEXANOL LTC: Pass, Scrub = 1.0

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Table 3C

Example 2, Run	Acid	LTC
1	Isobutyric acid	Pass
2	Acetic acid	Pass
3	Propionic acid	Pass

Table 3D

Example 3, Compound	VOC	LTC
Isodecyl benzoate	15%	Pass
Bis(2-ethylhexyl) adipate	0.6%	Pass

- 5 Having thus described the preferred embodiments of the present invention, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the teachings found herein may be applied to yet other embodiments within the scope of the claims hereto attached.

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CLAIMS:

1. A coating composition, comprising:

a latex polymer; and

a coalescent having the formula:



wherein:

R^1 is a group selected from an aliphatic group, a cyclic group, and a combination thereof, wherein the cyclic group is an alicyclic group or a heterocyclic group;

10 X is a divalent organic group;

n is 1 to 10; and

R^2 is hydrogen or an organic group;

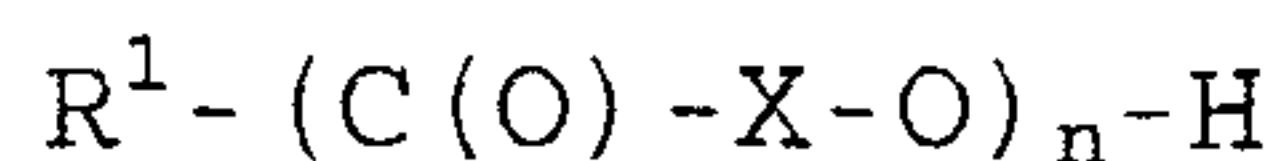
with the proviso that R^1 includes at least three carbon atoms when X is not $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8;

15 wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content (VOC) of less than about 15% measured by weighing approximately 0.5 g of the coalescent into an aluminum weighing dish, placing it in a forced air oven at 110°C for one hour, reweighing it and determining the mass loss in
20 % VOC; and is dispersible in the coating composition.

2. A coating composition comprising:

a latex polymer; and

a coalescent having the formula:



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wherein:

R¹ is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof;

X is a divalent hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygen atoms and carbonyl groups; and

n is 1 to 10;

wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content (VOC) of less than about 15% measured by weighing approximately 0.5 g of the coalescent into an aluminum weighing dish, placing it in a forced air oven at 110°C for one hour, reweighing it and determining the mass loss in % VOC; and is dispersible in the coating composition.

3. The coating composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the coalescent does not phase separate from the coating composition upon standing at 49°C for four weeks.

4. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds.

5. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C.

6. The coating composition of claim 5, wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about 4°C to about 10°C.

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7. The coating composition of claim 6, wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about 4°C to about 5°C.

8. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the coalescent has a number average molecular weight of no greater than about 750.

9. The coating composition of claim 8, wherein the coalescent has a number average molecular weight of less than about 500.

10. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 to 9, which is in the form of a paint.

11. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein n is 1 to 5.

12. The coating composition of claim 11, wherein n is 1 to 3.

13. The coating composition of claim 12, wherein n is 2 to 3.

14. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein R¹ has less than 100 carbon atoms.

15. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 13, wherein R¹ has substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof.

16. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 13, wherein R¹ has 3 to 24 carbon atoms and substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof; and wherein R² is hydrogen.

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17. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 13, wherein R^1 has the formula $R^3-(CH_2)_m-(O(CH_2)_p)_q-$ wherein R^3 is an alkyl group, m is 0 to 24, p is 1 to 4, and q is 0 to 50.

5 18. The coating composition of claim 17, wherein p is 1 to 2.

19. The coating composition of claim 17, wherein $m + pq$ is less than 23.

20. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R^2 is
10 hydrogen or an organic group having less than 100 carbon atoms.

21. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X is a divalent organic group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

22. The coating composition of claim 21, wherein X is
15 a divalent organic group having 3 to 5 carbon atoms.

23. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X is an organic group having substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, and combinations thereof.

24. The coating composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein X
20 has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8.

25. The coating composition of claim 24, wherein s is 3 to 5.

26. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated
25 carbon-carbon bonds; and wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C.

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27. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein

R^1 has the formula $R^3-(CH_2)_m-(O(CH_2)_p)_q-$ wherein R^3 is an alkyl group, m is 0 to 24, p is 1 to 4, and q is 0 to 50, X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8; and

5 R^2 is hydrogen or R^1 ;

wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C.

28. The coating composition of claim 1, comprising at
10 least 1 wt% of the coalescent having the formula $R^1-(C-(O)-X-O)_n-R^2$ based on the polymer solids of the coating composition.

29. The coating composition of claim 28, comprising at
15 least 2 wt% of the coalescent having the formula $R^1-(C-(O)-X-O)_n-R^2$ based on the polymer solids of the coating composition.

30. The coating composition of claim 29, comprising
between 5 wt% and 25 wt% of the coalescent having the
formula $R^1-(C-(O)-X-O)_n-R^2$ based on the polymer solids of the
20 coating composition.

31. The coating composition of claim 2, wherein:

R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygens;

X is an organic group containing nonperoxidic
25 oxygens and carbonyl groups; and

n is 1 to 10.

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32. The coating composition of any one of claims 1 to 31, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

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