

CONSTRUCTION

TRANSPORT

Solvents for road construction and repair

Why is the role of solvents essential?

In the extraction of bitumen from oil or tar sands, high boiling point hydrocarbon solvents are used in the so-called Vapor Extraction Process (VAPEX), which is an in-situ technology. The solvents are injected into an upper well to dilute bitumen and enable the diluted bitumen to flow into a lower well. It has the advantage of much better energy efficiency over steam injection, and the formation leads to some partial upgrading of bitumen to oil.

Several repair techniques exist to repair potholes or cracks that appear through weathering or heavy use. In what is called cutback bitumen, bitumen or asphalt is 'cut back' by adding controlled amounts of light hydrocarbon solvents. This temporarily reduces the viscosity of the bitumen so it can penetrate the pavement more effectively or can be sprayed at temperatures too cold for neat bitumen. The material used to cut back bitumen will evaporate after application and leave the remaining material similar in hardness to the original bitumen.

INDUSTRIAL & PROFESSIONAL USE



SPOT ON

Hydrocarbon solvents



Benefit Green Deal

Longer lasting products that can be repaired, recycled and re-used

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