

Urbanization: the megatrend of the future

The trend toward greater urbanization is continuing apace, with the United Nations estimating that almost 70 percent of the world's population will be living in cities by 2050. LANXESS is developing innovative products and solutions to make the cities of tomorrow more livable and safe.

Chemical products promote sustainable city concepts

These innovative solutions include not only high-tech plastics, but also color pigments, flame retardants, plasticizers, elastomers, lubricants and material protection products.

Inorganic pigments from LANXESS, for example, make construction materials and urban infrastructure – roads, sidewalks, squares and so on – more attractive and sustainable. Special high-performance types have been designed for the color and paint industry and lend wood plastic composites (WPC) and artificial turf their color.

Flame retardants inhibit the flammability and combustibility of materials such as insulation panels, flexible PVC for floor coverings and cable sheathing to meet the fire protection requirements in the construction, transport and electronics industries.

The company's plasticizers increase the elasticity and flexibility of plastics, adhesives, paints, coatings and sealants, making these materials easier to handle.

LANXESS supplies antioxidants and antiozonants that extend the service lives of heavy-duty technical rubber goods, cables, tires, watersports clothing and technical textiles. They effectively protect against the effects of UV light and ozone. This prevents cracking in the material.

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Background Information

LANXESS products are also used in urban leisure activities. Not only the wheels of skateboards and inline skates, but also the wheel treads for roller coaster cars are made from LANXESS's polyurethane systems, which ensures low rolling resistance and is highly abrasion- and wear-resistant.

Biocides protect colors and paints against destructive microorganisms such as those that attack gypsum boards when they become contaminated by mold due to moisture or indoor air-conditioning systems.

Contributing to the solution of urban ecological problems

Roof planting improves air quality. Large surfaces in urban areas become "unsealed," and the burden on a city's wastewater treatment plants is reduced thanks to the retention of rainwater. LANXESS products protect bituminous flat roof membranes against destructive root penetration.

Green roofs improve air quality by separating and fixing fine dust, reducing the "urban heat island" effect and creating near-natural habitats. Last but not least, urbanized areas are unsealed and urban sewage treatment plants are relieved by rainwater retention. LANXESS products are used for the formulation of root-resistant bituminous construction materials such as roofing felts, sealants insulations and asphalt mixtures. They protect "green roofs" against root penetration.

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