SAVA

Southern African Vinyls Association

Building a *sustainable* future with PVC

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



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And much more!

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TOGETHER FOR A CIRCULAR FUTURE

AUGUST "INTRODUCTION TO PVC" COURSE EARNS TOP MARKS

Strong industry participation, excellent delegate feedback and growing demand for further training confirm the value of SAVA's flagship PVC course.

SAVA's latest Introduction to PVC Course, held on 20–21 August 2026, proved once again that there is a strong appetite within the local vinyls industry for relevant, practical and up-to-date technical training.

The two-day course brought together delegates from across the PVC value chain for an intensive programme covering the fundamentals of PVC as well as some of the important technical, sustainability and regulatory developments shaping the industry.

SAVA goes to considerable effort with each course to refresh the programme, introduce new speakers and incorporate new topics. The aim is not simply to repeat the same training programme from year to year, but to ensure that the content remains interesting, relevant and responsive to the changing needs of South Africa's PVC industry.







From PVC fundamentals to innovation and recycling

Day one laid a strong technical foundation, beginning with an overview of the PVC industry and the PVC manufacturing process, followed by practical considerations for effective PVC dry blends, PVC formulation and plasticisers. Delegates were also introduced to innovations in flexible PVC applications and new developments in PVC, before the day concluded with an overview of SAVA's Product Stewardship Commitment.

Day two shifted the focus towards some of the broader issues influencing the future of the industry. Presentations explored Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), the latest PVC recycling statistics, challenges and end-markets, medical PVC recycling, and the versatility and value of PVC. A particular highlight was the tour of the Sasol Polymer Science Testing Centre, which gave delegates an opportunity to see testing facilities first-hand and connect the theory covered during the course with practical applications.

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Delegates give the course a resounding thumbs-up

Feedback received after the course was overwhelmingly positive. All respondents indicated that they would be interested in attending further PVC training courses, while those who responded to the recommendation question said they would recommend the course to others.

The individual presentations also received very strong scores. Several sessions achieved near-perfect ratings, while the Recycling Medical PVC presentation received a perfect score from respondents. The Sasol Polymer Science Testing Centre tour scored an impressive 9.8/10, as did the food and refreshments, while communication and arrangements surrounding the course achieved a perfect 10/10.

Comments from delegates described the two days as "very informative" and praised the combination of recycling information, networking and the facility tour. Another delegate highlighted the passion of the instructors, the interaction between delegates and presenters, and the opportunity to network.

The feedback also provided SAVA with useful direction for future training. Recycling considerations emerged as the strongest training need, followed closely by material handling, troubleshooting and production optimisation. Delegates also expressed interest in further training on quality control, moulding, extrusion, thermoforming, injection and blow moulding, with a specific request for more hands-on training.

Congratulations to our August graduates!

SAVA warmly congratulates the following delegates who successfully completed the August course and received their Certificates of Completion:

- Afsana Nundeekasen (Delta Colours)
- Annelie Leonard (Delta Colours)
- Milani Sonqishe (Delta Colours)
- Suren Govender (Delta Colours)
- Daniel Naude (Delta Colours)
- Tyrique Jacobs (Plasticomp)
- Armand Dryer (Neucoat)
- Charles Goldman (Bodo Möller Chemie SA)
- Paul Clark (Adex Plastics and Machinery)
- Yusuf Asvat (EasyPack)
- Mohau Mofokeng (Marubeni)
- Jurie Esterhuizeen (Alpha Plast)
- Dirk Botha (Alpha Plast)
- Marthina Ras (Gers Plastics and Rubber Machinery)

SAVA also extends its sincere appreciation to Sasol for hosting the course and opening its Polymer Science Testing Centre to our delegates, and to all the presenters who generously shared their time, knowledge and expertise. The quality of a course such as this depends heavily on industry experts who are prepared to share practical knowledge and engage openly with delegates.

Next course coming in November

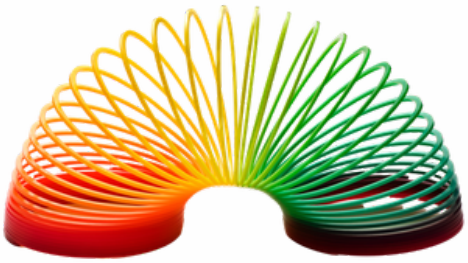
Judging by the industry response and delegate feedback, SAVA's Introduction to PVC Course continues to fulfil an important training need. It provides newcomers with a valuable grounding in PVC while giving those already working in the sector an opportunity to broaden their knowledge, engage with specialists and better understand developments across the wider PVC value chain.

The next Introduction to PVC Course is planned for November 2026. With interest in further PVC training running high, companies are encouraged to keep an eye on SAVA's communications for the dates and booking information. If the August feedback is anything to go by, November promises to be another course worth attending!











FLEXIBLE BY DESIGN:

INNOVATION CONTINUES TO EXPAND PVC'S POSSIBILITIES

From automotive interiors and high-temperature cables to medical applications and plasticiser-free flexible vinyl, new developments demonstrate why PVC remains one of the world's most adaptable polymers.

Few polymers can match PVC when it comes to versatility. By changing the resin, formulation and processing conditions, PVC can be engineered to deliver vastly different properties for applications ranging from flooring and artificial leather to electrical cables, automotive components, roofing membranes and medical products.

This remarkable adaptability was highlighted by Daniel Ortiz Martinz of INEOS Inovyn during his presentation, "Flexible by Design: INEOS Inovyn Innovations for Flexible PVC Applications", at SAVA's recent Introduction to PVC Course

Far from being a mature polymer with little room left for development, PVC continues to be an active area of innovation. According to INEOS Inovyn, more than 320,000 PVC-related patents have been published, with approximately 45% issued during the past ten years. Importantly, innovation is taking place across the entire PVC value chain. New developments encompass resins and additives, processing and machinery, carbon neutrality, recycling and circularity, regulatory requirements and finished products.

More than 320,000 PVC-related patents have been published, with approximately 45% issued during the past ten years.

Rethinking flexible PVC

Perhaps the most exciting development presented was IP-PVC, described by INEOS Inovyn as a breakthrough innovation for flexible PVC. Traditionally, flexibility in PVC is achieved through formulation with plasticisers. IP-PVC takes a different approach: it is a grafted copolymer that produces flexible vinyl without liquid or solid plasticisers, while preserving crystallinity and good mechanical properties. The material is intended for conventional thermoplastic processing methods, including extrusion, calendering and injection moulding. Potential applications are extensive and include roofing membranes, flooring, flexible hoses and profiles, cables and medical products. **wn.**

From the laboratory to real-world applications

Martinz highlighted several INOVYN™ PVC developments that demonstrate how resin technology can be tailored to meet increasingly specialised performance requirements. INOVYN™ PVC P16, for example, is a medium-viscosity, low-fog and low-odour resin developed particularly for automotive interiors and artificial leather. It combines excellent thermo-mechanical properties with good air release and foaming characteristics. The grade is also available in low-carbon NEOVYN and carbon-neutral BIOVYN versions.

For more demanding temperature environments, INOVYN™ PVC S9060 offers another example of how PVC properties can be engineered for specific applications. This very-high-molecular-weight S-PVC grade has a linear chain structure and high crystallinity, resulting in improved mechanical performance, particularly at elevated service temperatures. Potential applications include high-temperature cables and window gaskets.
Another development, INOVYN™ PVC 675LA, is a low-viscosity, fast-fusing VC-acrylate copolymer. Its ability to process at lower temperatures offers potential energy savings, while enhanced mechanical properties and faster fusion can contribute to increased productivity. Applications include artificial leather, flooring, automotive sealants and plastisol compounds

FLEXIBLE BY DESIGN (cont.)

This technology potentially addresses several important considerations simultaneously. Because no conventional plasticiser is required, INEOS Inovyn reports no plasticiser migration or extraction. The material is suitable for food-contact and compatible with medical applications, offers excellent weathering and is mechanically recyclable. It can also deliver energy savings through room-temperature mixing and lower processing temperatures. Significantly for existing PVC converters, INEOS Inovyn says the technology requires no change to downstream processing equipment.

Its properties can also be tailored. Blending IP-PVC with S-PVC resins can increase Shore A hardness, while softer copolymers can reduce hardness and increase flexibility, providing formulators with considerable scope to optimise mechanical performance for different end uses.

Migration testing presented during the course further demonstrated very low weight loss for IP-PVC compared with formulations containing conventional liquid plasticiser under the test conditions shown.

A polymer that keeps reinventing itself

Daniel's presentation provided a compelling reminder that PVC's versatility lies not simply in the polymer itself, but in the extraordinary ability of the industry to design its properties around the application.

From lower-emission automotive interiors and energy-efficient processing to high-performance cables and new plasticiser-free flexible formulations, ongoing innovation is allowing PVC to respond to changing technical, environmental and regulatory demands.

More than a century into its commercial development, PVC is therefore far from standing still. If anything, developments such as IP-PVC demonstrate that one of PVC's greatest strengths remains exactly what Martinz's presentation title suggests: it is flexible by design.

IP-PVC: getting the most of it!

Tips to adjust Shore A hardness and mechanical properties

- Shore A can be **increased by blending IP-PVC with S-PVC** resins
- **Best tensile properties** were obtained with **557RB[2]** and with **250SB[3]**
- Shore A **can be decreased with soft copolymers** like Elvaloy® 742

Material	Shore A[1]	Tensile Strength (Mpa)[1]	Elongation at Break (%)[1]
IP-PVC (100)	78	12.2	249
IP-PVC/ 557RB (85/15)	88	**15.0**	188
IP-PVC/ 557RB (70/30)	95	**19.4**	139
IP-PVC/ 250SB (85/15)	85	13.2	174
IP-PVC/ 250SB (70/30)	92	15.4	118
IP-PVC/ Elvaloy 742 (85/15)	75	12.2	**289**
IP-PVC/ Elvaloy 742 (70/30)	66	13.1	**369**

Migration test with rigid PVC and PE (ISO 177)

Similar Shore A compounds to compare IP-PVC with solid/ liquid plasticisers

- Flexible PVC disk 0.5 mm X 50 mm diameter
- Sandwich with Rigid PVC or PE
- 5 days at 70°C with 5 kg weight
- Determination of the weight change of the flexible PVC disk

Material	1	2	3	4	5
IP-PVC	150				
IP-PVC		150			
IP-PVC			150		
271 PC				100	100
DINP				50	
Elvaloy 742					80
Ca Stearate	2	2	2	2	2
Zn Stearate	1	1	1	1	1
Rhod 55E	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Shore A	**85**	**90**	**93**	**83**	**85**

PVC RECYCLING CONTINUES TO GAIN MOMENTUM IN SA

SAVA delivers strong interim EPR results

Since registering with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) as a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) in 2022, SAVA) has made significant progress in implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for South Africa's vinyl packaging industry.

With EPR levies maintained at R250 per tonne, SAVA manages a comprehensive range of regulatory responsibilities on behalf of its members. These include collecting and administering EPR fees, maintaining producer registers, reporting packaging volumes and recycling data to Government, undergoing internal and independent external audits, appointing and managing recycling service providers, supporting infrastructure development and collaborating with municipalities. Importantly, SAVA's mandate also extends to job creation, transformation, integrating informal waste collectors and developing sustainable end-markets for recycled PVC.

Although locally produced PVC packaging represents less than 2% of South Africa's packaging market (roughly 12 000 tonnes annually) it fulfils highly specific applications. PVC's natural clarity, resistance to oils and acids, excellent gas-barrier properties, heat tolerance, strength and sealing performance make it difficult to replace in many applications.

SAVA's latest results demonstrate that this relatively small packaging stream is making encouraging circular-economy progress.

According to SAVA's interim DFFE report for January to June 2026, members placed 2 659 303 kg of PVC packaging onto the market, while 480 669 kg was collected and recycled. This translates into an impressive 18.08% collection and recycling rate – more than double the 7% target. Recycling operations supported through the scheme also sustained 52 full-time jobs.

SAVA has backed these results with tangible investment, committing more than R3.5 million over the past three years to recycling projects spearheaded by Sheet Converters for flexible PVC packaging, ReVinyl for PVC bottles and Plasticomp for rigid PVC packaging.

Industry urged to prioritise recycled content in new products

Recent increases in virgin polymer prices, driven in part by geopolitical instability and the conflict involving Iran, have strengthened demand for recycled material. However, SAVA believes recycled content should not depend solely on favourable economics.

Manufacturers need to consciously incorporate recyclate wherever technically possible to create viable end-markets, strengthen recycling businesses and divert valuable material from landfill.

South Africa's requirement that compliant plastic carrier bags contain 100% post-consumer recyclate from January 2027 demonstrates Government's growing commitment to recycled content. SAVA hopes similar momentum will increasingly extend to suitable PVC applications.
PVC offers a particularly compelling circularity story: short-life packaging can be recycled into durable products such as pipes, flooring, window profiles and ceilings, which can remain in service for decades – in some applications approaching 100 years – before themselves reaching the recycling stream.

For SAVA, the objective is clear: keep PVC in productive use for as long as possible, build stronger markets for recyclate and turn EPR obligations into measurable circular-economy outcomes.

"MY WALK MADE WITH SOUL" KEEPS GROWING ITS FOOTPRINT

School shoe project made from non-hazardous PVC hospital waste grows from strength to strength

The award-winning My Walk Made with Soul initiative continues to grow from strength to strength, demonstrating how innovative thinking and collaboration can turn a waste stream into a resource that delivers both environmental and social benefits.

A partnership between Adcock Ingram Critical Care and Netcare, My Walk manages a cradle-to-cradle process that collects empty, non-hazardous and uncontaminated PVC IV bags, oxygen masks and oxygen tubing from participating hospitals. This material is recycled and transformed into durable school shoes made from 100% recycled material.

The impact has been remarkable. To date, more than 450 000 pairs of school shoes have been donated, while more than 170 000 kg of PVC healthcare waste has been recycled rather than discarded.

In a country where many children still attend school without adequate footwear, the project combines environmental sustainability with dignity, education and social upliftment.

My Walk's innovative approach has also earned significant recognition locally and internationally. Accolades include the Green Economy Award at the Nedbank Trialogue Business in Society Awards in 2023, finalist recognition at the New York Festival in the Health and Wellness Innovation category, and wins at both the Eco-Logic Awards for Circular Economy and Waste Management and the Beyond Awards for Beyond Sustainability Project. Most recently, My Walk received a Special Commendation at the Innovyn 2025 Awards.



Importantly, the initiative is not standing still. Its hospital footprint continues to expand, increasing the amount of recyclable PVC available while enabling even more children to benefit. The programme already includes 29 participating Netcare hospitals, stretching across Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

My Walk Made with Soul is a powerful example of the circular economy in action: taking PVC that has already fulfilled its life-saving role in healthcare and giving it a valuable second life.
In doing so, the project continues to deliver on three fronts – environment, employment and education – proving that one innovative recycling initiative can leave a lasting footprint far beyond the hospital doors.

For more information email:
delanie.bezuidenhout@mywalk.org.za



Donated over 450 000 pairs of shoes to date!
Recycled more than 170 000kgs of PVC healthcare waste to date!

The Tortoise and the Hare:
A Plastics Recycling Story

written by Marthina Ras



Imagine two competitors racing towards the future. The Hare represents the traditional "make, use and throw away" approach. He races ahead using virgin raw materials to manufacture plastic products as quickly and cheaply as possible. Once each product has been used, he throws it aside and continues running.

Initially, the Hare appears to be winning. Production is fast, consumption is convenient and nobody stops to consider what happens to the discarded plastic. However, every bottle, container and piece of packaging that he throws away remains on the racetrack.

The Tortoise represents the circular plastics economy. He moves more deliberately because he collects used plastic, separates it by material, cleans it and processes it into usable raw material. He then returns that material to manufacturing so that it can become another useful product.

While the Hare constantly demands new raw materials and leaves an ever-growing trail of waste behind him, the Tortoise repeatedly uses the resources already available.

Eventually, the Hare's discarded plastic blocks his path. What once appeared to be the quickest route has become expensive, wasteful and unsustainable. The Tortoise continues moving forward because the material he collected did not become an obstacle—it became the resource that helped him complete the race.

The lesson is simple: The Hare sees plastic as something to use once and discard. The Tortoise understands that plastic is a valuable resource that should remain in circulation for as long as technically and economically possible.

Recycling may require collection, sorting, cleaning and responsible reprocessing, but these steady steps conserve resources, reduce waste and create a plastics industry that can continue into the future.

In the race towards sustainability, speed of consumption does not determine the winner. The winner is the one who can keep going without leaving the racetrack buried in waste.

Marthina Ras also wrote a catchy and inspirational song about PVC recycling.

Listen to it on our website: https://www.savinyls.co.za/media-1

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SAVA SUPPORTS CLEAN-UP & RECYCLE SA WEEK 2026

The annual Clean-Up & Recycle SA Week will once again be taking place this year from 14-20 September 2026. SAVA will be supporting this year's initiative and we are encouraging our members and industry partners to also get involved.
Organise a clean-up in your community or support one that will be taking place in your area. We also would love to equip the hardworking clean-up crews that will be tackling our rivers, streams and beaches with protective PVC products such as gumboots and gloves.

If you are eager to get involved, please email Monique@savinyls.co.za or visit www.cleanupandrecycle.co.za to find a clean-up that will be taking place near you!









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Visit SAVA on the Plastics SA stand (H56)

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