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## Pressure Sensitive Adhesive Glossary

**Abrasion Resistance** - The ability of a tape to withstand rubbing and still function

**Adhesive** - Any material that will usefully hold two or more objects together solely by intimate surface contact.

**Adhesive transfer** - The transfer of adhesive from its normal position on the tape to the surface to which the tape was attached, either during unwind or removal.

**Backing** - A relatively thin flexible material to which the adhesive is applied. Theoretically, any material that is reasonably flat, relatively thin, and flexible could be used as a tape backing.

**Carrier** - Sometime used to refer to the backing material, particularly in double-faced tapes

**Delamination** - A separation of the backing into two distinct layers, separation between laminations of a tape consisting of more than one backing, or the separation between filaments and backing of a filament-reinforced tape.

**Double Coated Tape** - A pressure-sensitive tape consisting of a carrier with adhesive coated on both sides (typically, a liner is necessary to unwind the roll.)

**Flame Resistance** - The ability of a tape to withstand exposure to flame. Fireproof materials will not burn even when exposed to flame. Flame-resistant (fire-retardant, self-extinguishing) materials will burn when exposed to flame but will not continue to burn after the flame is removed.

**Hot Melt** - A pressure sensitive adhesive, applied to the backing in a hot molten form, that cools to form a conventional pressure sensitive adhesive.

**Kraft** - A surface wood pul paper

**Mils** - Used in describing adhesive coat weights or thickness. The term means thousandths of an inch.

**Out-Gassing** - The release of volatile components under heat or vacuum.

**Pressure Sensitive** - A term commonly used to designate a distinct category of adhesive tapes and adhesives, which, in dry (solvent-free) form, are aggressively and permanently tacky at room temperature and firmly adhere to a variety of dissimilar surfaces upon mere contact without the need of more than finger or hand pressure. They require no activation by water, solvent, or heat to exert a strong adhesive holding force toward such material as paper, plastic, glass, wood,



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cement, and metals. They have a sufficiently cohesive holding an elastic nature so that, despite their aggressive tackiness, they can be handled with the fingers and removed from smooth surfaces without leaving a residue

**Release Liner** - Siliconized paper or film coated on one or both sides that protects the adhesive until use. The liner is removed and discarded before application. Most frequently found on double-coated tapes and labels. Fluoro Silicone liners are available in special situations that required silicone adhesive to release

**Spool** - One layer of tape starts on a side of the core. The next layer overlaps with the first one and then the tape is wound back and forth traversing from one side of the core to the other

**Surface energy** - is the excess energy that exists at the surface (as opposed to the bulk) of a solid; this excess energy exists because molecules at the surface cannot interact with as many like neighbors as molecules in the bulk are able to do; therefore, they have excess interaction energy

**Tacky** - The condition of the adhesive when it feels sticky or highly adhesive. Sometimes used to express the ideas of pressure sensitivity.

**Tear Resistance** - The ability of a tape to resist tearing after a tear have been started by cutting or nicking of the edge

**Tissue** - Typically referred to as a carrier in a double coated product. A tissue carrier can make slitting and die-cutting easier, by preventing adhesive flow. Tissue differs from film carriers in that it does allow for some elongation and permits more conformability

**Transfer Tape** - An unsupported pressure-sensitive adhesive tape

**Weaving** - A poorly wound roll of tape in which the individual layers of tape are not in alignment with the other layer

**Wet out** - All adhesives must wet out to form a bond, which means they cover a surface to maximize the contact area and the attractive forces between the adhesive and bonding surface. Good wettability of an adhesive is a prerequisite for ensuring good adhesive bonding.