

curing

Chemical process of converting a prepolymer or a polymer into a polymer of higher molar mass and connectivity and finally into a network.

Note 1: Curing is typically accomplished by chemical reactions induced by heating (thermal curing), photo-irradiation (photo-curing), or electron-beam irradiation (EB curing), or by mixing with a chemical curing agent.

Note 2: Physical aging, crystallization, physical crosslinking, and post-polymerization reactions are sometimes referred to as “curing”. Use of the term “curing” in these cases is discouraged.

Note 3: See also vulcanization.

2004, 76, 892