



## Press Release

August 21, 2025

Henkel launches new sealant range for metal packaging

### **Phthalate-free sealing: Henkel introduces new PVC-based compounds for pail and drum applications**

Düsseldorf – Henkel Adhesive Technologies is introducing a new generation of its Darex COV sealants. The formulations do not contain phthalate-based plasticizers and ensure the reliable sealing of metal packaging with improved health and environmental credentials. With this step, Henkel is setting standards in the early elimination of harmful ingredients in industrial adhesives and sealants.

The phthalate-free PVC-based compounds will gradually replace existing products and provide users with a future-proof solution that complies with current and future regulations, at the same time offering processing and application advantages. This transition is being driven by increasingly stringent legal requirements – including the European REACH regulation – and growing demands for more sustainable packaging solutions along the entire supply chain.

As potential endocrine disruptors, phthalates have been the focus of scientific and regulatory attention for years. Certain types such as DEHP, DBP and BBP have already been classified as toxic to reproduction and are banned in various applications, including toys and cosmetics. The European Commission has also listed several similar substances in the SVHC (substances of very high concern) category. With this in mind, Henkel took the early decision to switch to phthalate-free (NI) formulations.

“Phthalates are considered endocrine disruptors – substances that disrupt the hormone system – and therefore have long-term health and environmental consequences,” explains Laura Baussà, Market Strategy Manager at Henkel. “With the new Darex COV series, we are offering our customers safe alternatives to protect employees and end users without compromising on performance.”

A key focus of development was the formulation of a one-component sealant system that is suitable for nozzle application, offering stable viscosity, high resistance to solvents, ketones and oils, and thermal stability. Darex COV 73 not only does not contain phthalates, but it also avoids the use of ingredients that are classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction (CMR). Moreover, the phthalate-free formulation makes it possible to reduce the curing temperature, thus cutting energy consumption and shrinking the application's carbon footprint.

Darex COV 73 was successfully developed to market maturity in a pilot project with Emballator. The Swedish manufacturer of metal packaging switched several of its facilities to the new phthalate-free formulation in 2024. In collaboration with Henkel, the company is pursuing a clear sustainability strategy and is proactively addressing regulatory developments such as the REACH regulation by adopting technical solutions at an early stage. Applying Darex COV 73 under real production conditions provided clear evidence for both the smooth application process and effective sealing performance.

The new Darex COV range is being rolled out gradually. In doing so, Henkel is actively supporting its customers in the transition to phthalate-free sealants.

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#### **About Henkel**

With its brands, innovations and technologies, Henkel holds leading market positions worldwide in the industrial and consumer businesses. The business unit Adhesive Technologies is the global leader in the market for adhesives, sealants and functional coatings. With Consumer Brands, the company holds leading positions especially in laundry & home care and hair in many markets and categories around the world. The company's three strongest brands are Loctite, Persil and Schwarzkopf. In fiscal 2024, Henkel reported sales of more than 21.6 billion euros and adjusted operating profit of around 3.1 billion euros. Henkel's preferred shares are listed in the German stock index DAX. Sustainability has a long tradition at Henkel, and the company has a clear sustainability strategy with specific targets. Henkel was founded in 1876 and today employs a diverse team of about 47,000 people worldwide – united by a strong corporate culture, shared values and a common purpose: "Pioneers at heart for the good of generations." More information at [www.henkel.com](https://www.henkel.com)

**Photo material is available at [www.henkel.de/press](https://www.henkel.de/press)**

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The one-component sealant system Darex COV 73 is suitable for nozzle application, offering stable viscosity, high resistance to solvents, ketones and oils, and thermal stability.



With the new Darex COV range Henkel is proactively addressing regulatory developments such as the REACH regulation by adopting technical solutions at an early stage and also actively supporting its customers in the transition to phthalate-free sealants.