

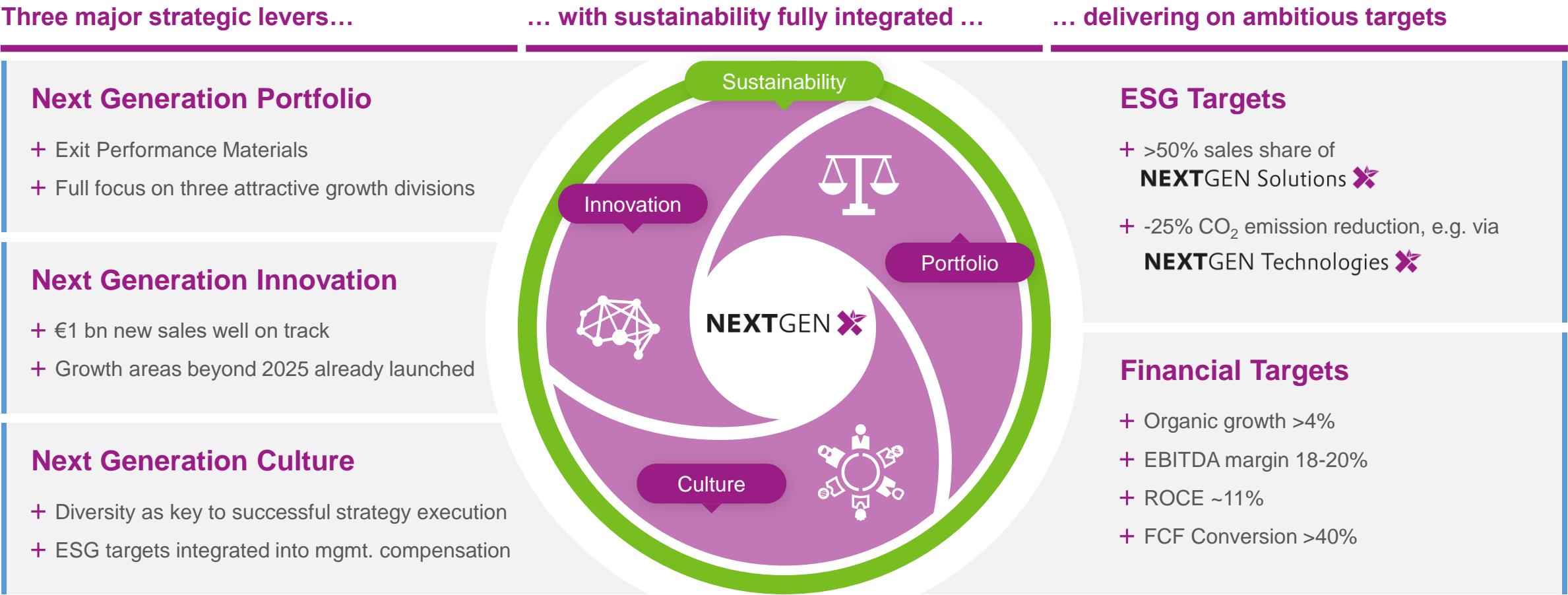
Reciclagem de Espuma Flexível

Evonik

Celso Toyoshima

Next Generation Evonik:

Sustainability fully integrated into all three strategic levels





Enabler of Sustainable Change

Sustainability Focus Areas

ENSURE HEALTH & WELL-BEING



DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS

- ⊕ Advanced oral & parenteral drug delivery systems (e.g. mRNA LNP)



SPECIALTY ADDITIVES

- ⊕ for environmentally-friendly solutions, e.g. water-based artificial leather



Leading Beyond Chemistry

FUTURE MOBILITY

- ⊕ Lightweight solutions
- ⊕ Solutions for hybrid & full battery cars



FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE



ECO-SOLUTIONS

- ⊕ Specialty peroxides solutions
- ⊕ Membranes for gas separation



DRIVE CIRCULARITY



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- ⊕ Circular plastic & circular polyurethanes additive solutions



BIO-BASED SOLUTIONS

- ⊕ Bio-based & fully bio-degradable surfactants
- ⊕ Natural active cosmetics ingredients



SUSTAINABLE NUTRITION

- ⊕ Omega-3 fatty acids from natural marine algae
- ⊕ Gut health solutions



SAFEGUARD ECOSYSTEMS



Facts on Polyurethane Waste

In the EU, up to 40 million mattresses are discarded every year, most of them end up in landfills

In Europe, more than 1 million tons of flexible PU foam waste are generated every year – most of it ending up in the municipal waste streams



40.000.000
colchões x 20 cm
= 8.000 km

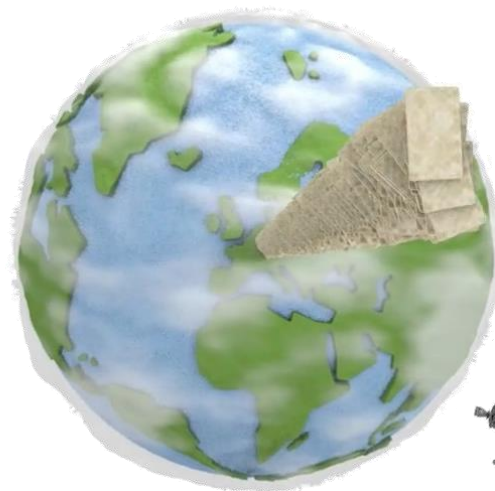


If they were stacked up,
the pile would be

8,000 km

high.

40.000.000 colchões de
solteiro, D23
= 300.000+ ton de espuma



In **5 years**

this stack would reach

geostationary orbit.

Push from the Market: IKEA Approach

Our commitment

**100%
CIRCULAR
PRODUCTS
BY 2030**

**BY 2030 ALL
MATERIALS
USED ARE
RENEWABLE
OR RECYCLED**



15 000 000
Mattresses sold last year

182 000 tons
Of foam used 2020

50%
Of materials used in mattresses
are foam types

What material share will foam have 2030?

Polyurethane Recycling

Methods and Definitions



The Biggest hurdles to viable Polyurethane Recycling are:

- a) feasible technical solutions that preserve performance
- b) suitable outlets for recyclates



Mechanical Recycling

Mechanical downcycling of polyurethane is the most common practice in NA. Predominant application is carpet underlays. The market is saturated and material can be sourced at low cost.



Chemolysis

Chemical process in which PU foams are reacted under acidic or alkaline/ basic conditions to obtain polyols and amines in order to reuse them as feedstock for new polyurethane materials



Pyrolysis

Mixed plastics are heated in an inert atmosphere and broken down to liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons and be further used in petrochemical processes, technology not ready for use at scale



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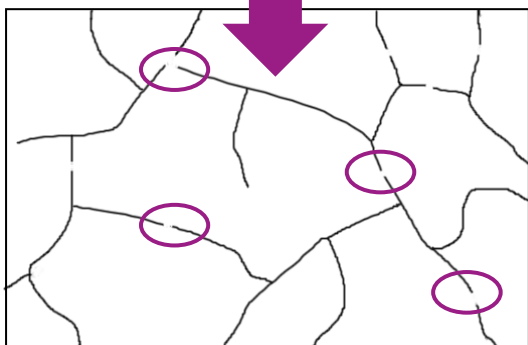
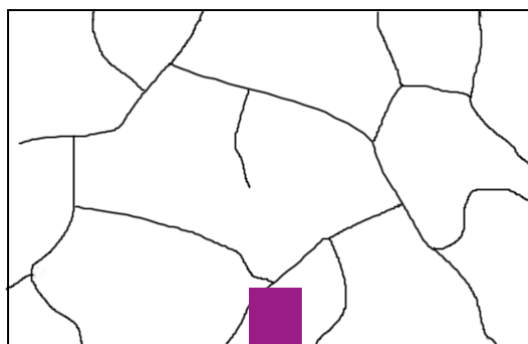
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Thermoplasts vs. Duroplasts/Thermosets

Structural issue: duroplasts/thermosets are cross-linked: no melting or dissolving: network needs to be broken!

Duroplastic polymer /thermosets

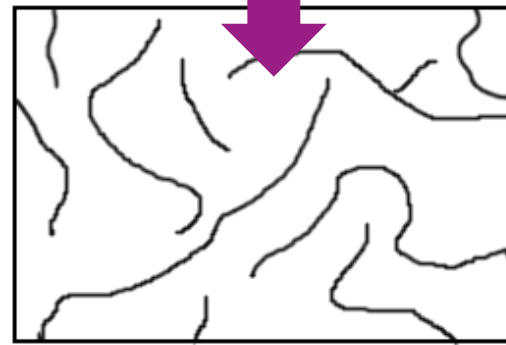


PU foam, rubber, epoxy resins

solid

liquid

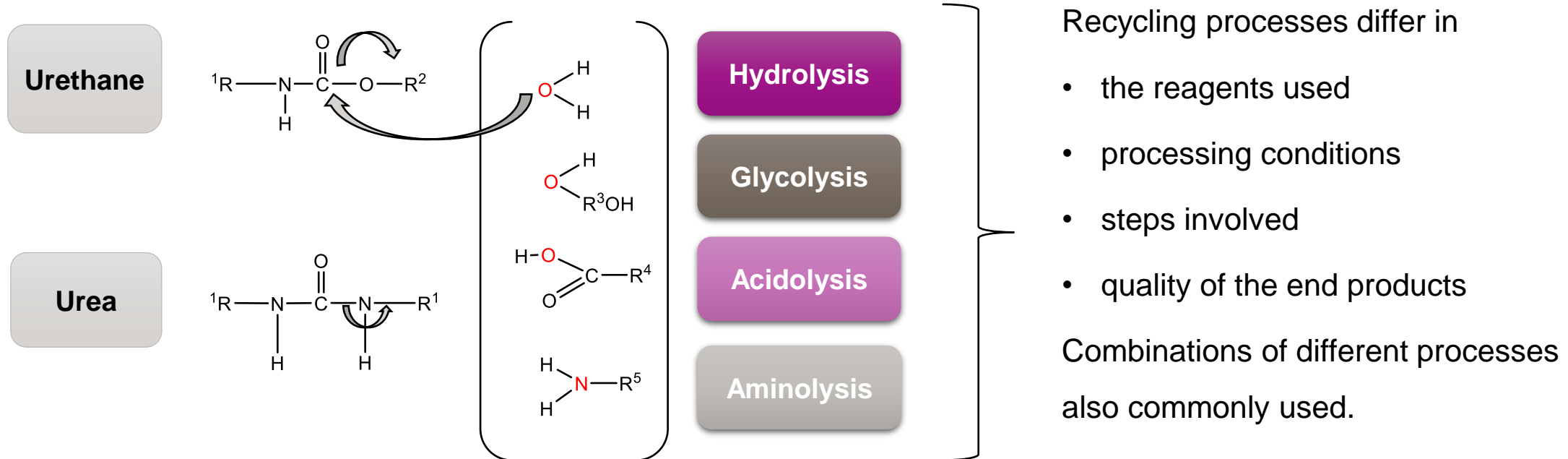
Thermoplastic polymer



PE, PP, PS, TPU, PA, ...

Chemolysis

- Polymers containing carbonyl functions can be cleaved back by nucleophilic substitution reactions
- Polyurethane foams contain various C=O functionalities, coming from the different reactions of isocyanate with various reaction partners



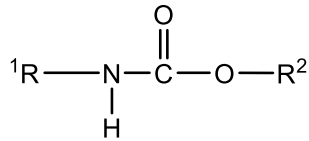
Chemolysis

Hydrolysis

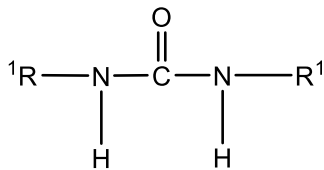
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e.g.
T > 200°C, 16 bar

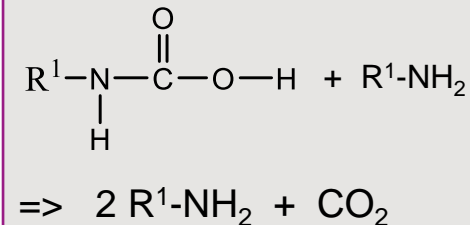
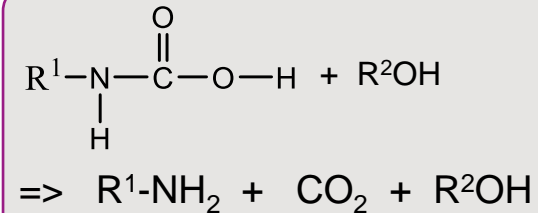
Urethane



Urea



Hydrolysis



Advantage:

- Converting everything to the **diamine** plus the **polyol**.
- No oligomeric by-products, therefore higher quality & use levels possible

Disadvantage:

- **Separation** of amine and polyol needed before being reused

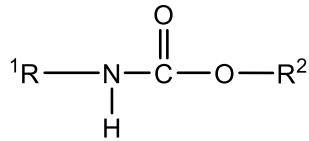
Chemolysis

Glycolysis

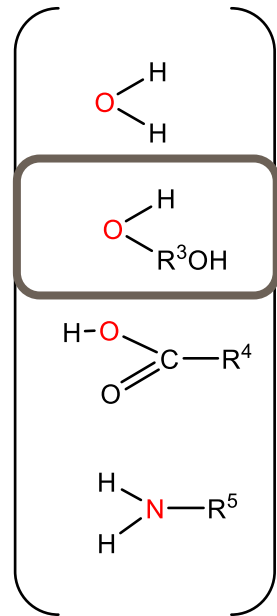
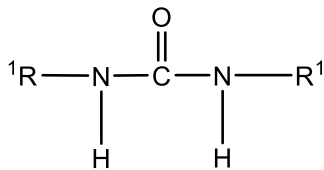
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T > 130°C reaction in heated glycols,
“reaction pressure”

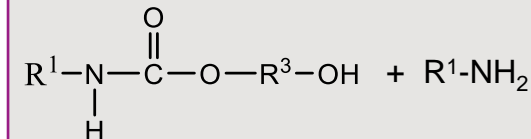
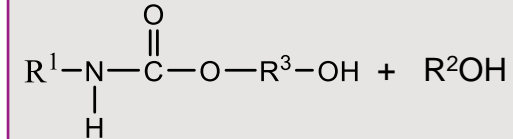
Urethane



Urea



Glycolysis



- Mix of **hydroxy-carbamates**, **alcohols**, different **oligomers** and aromatic **amines**
- Generally high OHN
- Is normally used without further separation after the reaction
- Typically used in **rigid foam** applications

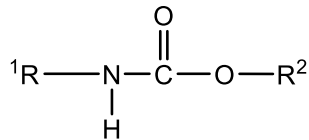
Chemolysis

Acidolysis

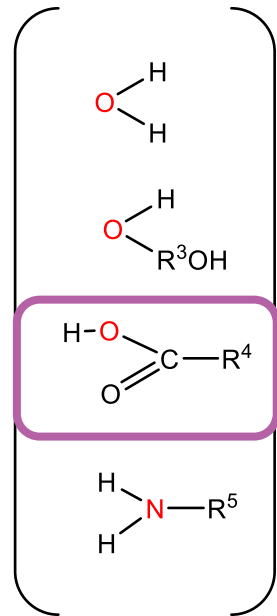
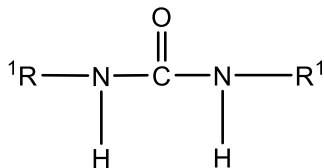
- Polymers containing carbonyl functions can be cleaved back by nucleophilic substitution reactions
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e.g. $T > 130^{\circ}\text{C}$ & reaction in molten organic acids

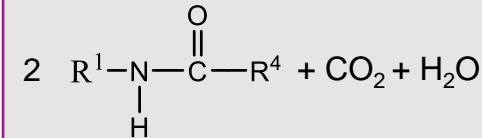
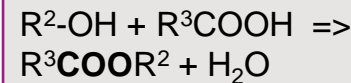
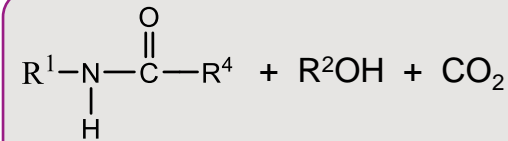
Urethane



Urea



Acidolysis



- Mix of **amides** with **alcohols & esters**
- Often oligomeric structures, intermediates present as well
- Reaction mixture is normally **neutralized** and **filtered** before use
- Allow for **lower OHN**

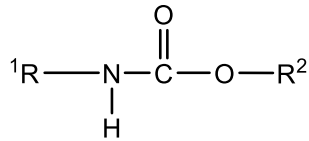
Chemolysis

Aminolysis

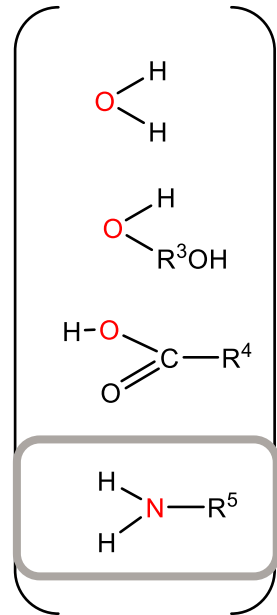
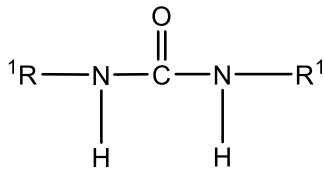
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e.g. room temperature,
atmospheric pressure

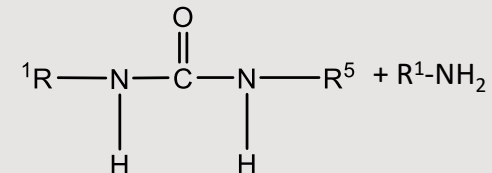
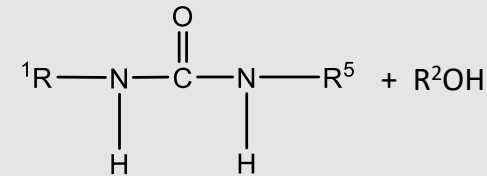
Urethane



Urea



Aminolysis









- Mix of **urea compounds**, **polyol** and **aromatic amines**

Chemolysis

Challenges

- Colour of the recycling polyol is gray / brown due to oxidation processes
- The **degradation of the network is often not complete enough**. The viscosity of the recycling polyol is often high.
- Depending on the process further processing steps after the reaction might be necessary, like neutralization, filtration, removal of water, distillation of solvents, deactivation of catalysts, adding of antioxidants.
- Depending on the process and the used PU material the recycling material can be a mixture with various species present. Often break-down products of various chemicals are contained. Odor of new foam might be influenced.
- Iron content concern.. Overall, recycling polyol needs to be treated with care in terms of scorch and self-ignition of new produced foam.
- From a legal point of view the recycling polyol is a) waste a b) newly produced chemical mixture? Does REACH apply? How to register the varying composition?
- The OH number of the recycling polyol
- **Up to 30 % use level** in normal flexible foam formulations. Much less in sensitive formulations.

Landscape in Chemical PU Recycling

 <h3>Ikano/Ikea</h3> <p>Chemical Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows H+S acidolysis process 	 <h3>Dow/Renuva</h3> <p>Chemical Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with H+S based on acidolysis process (since 2017) under Renuva project name Recently added Eco Mobilier, Orrion and Vita to Renuva program 	 <h3>BASF</h3> <p>Chemical Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New process development <p>Pyrolysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all types of plastic waste High caloric intake through PU might pose an issue
 <h3>Rampf Eco Solutions</h3> <p>Chemical Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glycolysis/Acidolysis 	 <h3>Tempur/RePURpose</h3> <p>Chemical Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danish consortium incl. Tinby research Institute Not published which type of chemolysis 	 <h3>Covestro/PUReSmart</h3> <p>Chemical Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of new and easier to recycle polyols through „PUReSmart consortium New chemolysis process development



Evonik is also helping to

solve this threat

to the **industry.**



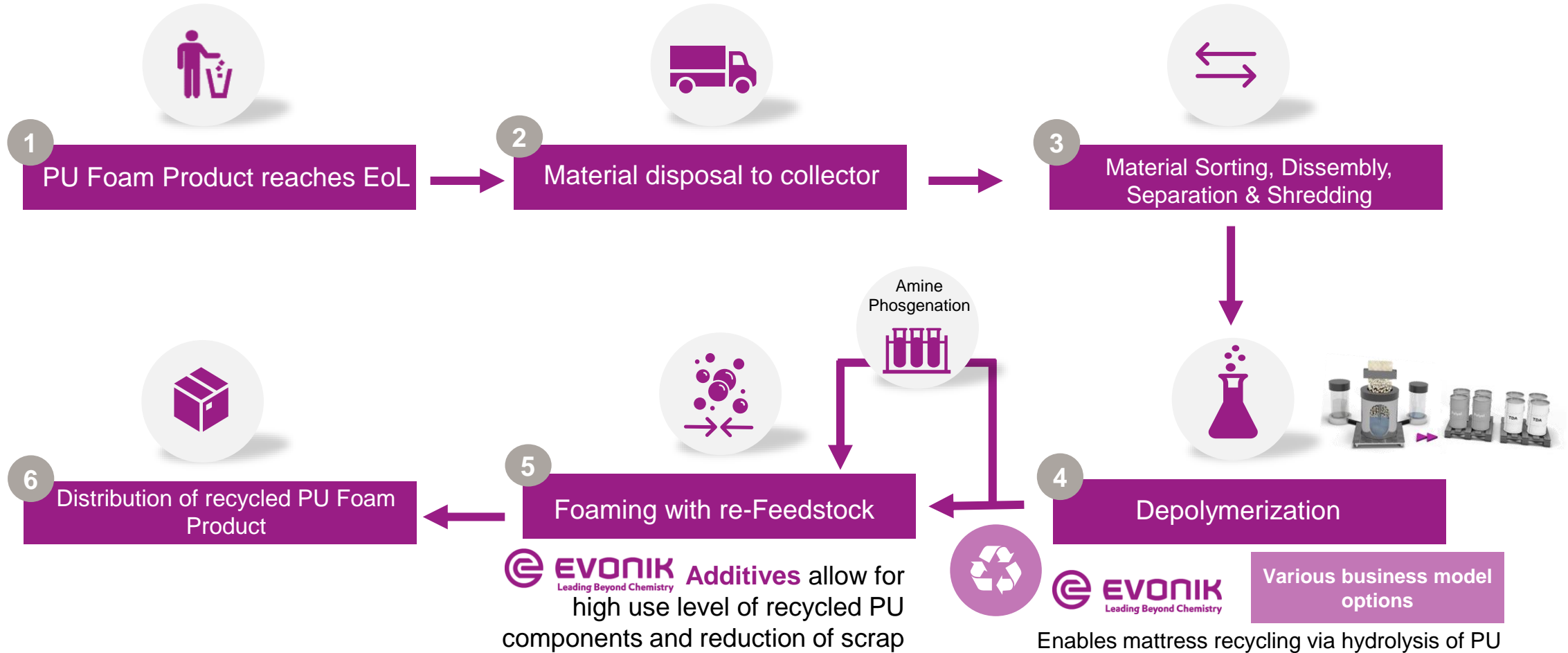


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Post-Consumer Mattresses Circular Supply Chain



Final details

Evonik Flexible PU Foam Recycling

- IP for the process is already in place to protect our know-how.
- Hydrolysis reaction to break-down the polyurethane flexible foam.
- Both main components of flexible PU foams can be recovered.
- Currently, we are focusing on the recovered polyol. The use of the recovered TDA will be considered at a later date.
- High-quality recycled polyol on lab scale. Increased use level compared to other processes.
- Vita partnership not exclusive. Evonik is open to work with other companies later in the project. At the moment, we are not able to work with other foam producers as the process is still at an early stage.
- Ongoing upscaling of the process. Extra time to create the most environmentally friendly process – process with least energy consumption and highest recovery rate of the main components of PU flexible foam as well as producing recycled materials that are easy to process.
- Samples will be available once scale-up is completed.



EVONIK

Leading Beyond Chemistry