

Five basic types of conformal coating:

Acrylic

Epoxy

Urethane

Paraxylylene

Silicone-based

Acrylic

Pros:

Acrylic coatings are solvent based and easily repaired.
Usually low cost and are tough, hard, and transparent.
Good pot life, low moisture absorption and short drying times
Available in aerosol packages
Do not shrink during cure
Temperature Range -59C to 132C

Limitations:

Low resistance to either abrasion or to chemicals

Epoxy

Pros:

Hard, usually opaque, and good moisture resistance. Epoxy is usually available as a two-component thermosetting mixture.
Excellent chemical and abrasion resistance,

Limitations:

Epoxies can cause stress on components during thermal extremes.
Epoxy is fairly easy to apply but impossible to remove without damaging the components.
Temperature Range -60C to 200C

Urethane

Pros:

Urethane coatings are tough, hard and exhibit excellent resistance to solvents.

Excellent abrasion resistance

Low moisture permeability,

Good low-temperature flexibility

Temperature Range -59C to 132C

Limitations:

Limited high-temperature capability

Shrinkage during cure can cause stress on boards

Inability to be repaired.

Paraxylylene (Parylene)

Pros:

- Paraxylylene coatings are uniform and yield excellent pin coverage.
- Excellent moisture, chemical, solvent protection
- Excellent dielectric properties
- Listed on the QPL for MIL-I-46058
- Meets the requirements of IPC-CC-830
- Superior thermal stability
- Excellent UV stability
- Ultra-thin coatings add minimal mass to delicate components

Limitations:

- High cost
- Sensitive to contaminants
- Require vacuum application
- Removal: Abrasion, incision and removal, excimer laser removal, heat softening, micro abrasion, and plasma etching

Silicone

Pros:

Range of properties

tough, abrasion-resistant

soft, elastomeric (stress-relieving) materials

Sustain high temperature environments

Easy to apply, processing versatility

Low toxicity

Good resistance to moisture (vapor), abrasion and humidity

Useful over a wide temperature range.

Excellent adhesion to previously applied coatings allows for the build-up of a thicker film to improve dielectric strength.

Temperature Range -60C to 205C.

Easy reparability

Low toxicity

Limitations:

Dielectric strength is less than other types of coatings

Moisture permeable for condensed water