

The suppression of foam therefore requires the coalescing of smaller bubbles into larger ones to give reduced stability.

(ii) Surface tension

For a foam to be at all stable, the surface tension must be considerably lower than that of the pure solvent. However, that alone will not produce a stable foam; more important is the way in which surface tension changes as the surface area of the liquid film varies, i.e. can be distorted without bursting. This property is called elasticity.

(iii) Concentration

There is generally a limit to the effect on foam generation and stability caused by the concentration of contaminant or foam forming agent.

Thus effective prevention or dissipation of foam entails interfering with the parameters mentioned above.

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