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(54) Title: RECOVERY OF POLYESTER FROM CONTAMINATED POLYESTER WASTE

(57) Abstract

A process for recovering a polyester, preferably polyethylene terephthalate, from contaminated polyester waste containing non-polyester components, such as polyester blended with cotton or other fibers in fabric or fiber forms, polyester magnetic tapes, coated polyester films and engineering resins, by dissolving the polyester in molten dimethylterephthalate, methyl-p-toluate or dimethylisophthalate as solvent and separating the polyester solution from the non-polyester components. The polyester can subsequently be recovered by crystallization or the polyester solution can be used as a feedstock for methanolysis to form dimethylterephthalate (DMT) and alkylene glycol. The DMT can be subsequently hydrolyzed to recover terephthalic acid (TPA).

