

ABSTRACT

Provided by the present invention is a PVA having highly harmonized adequate water solubility, thickening property and coating film strength, and having superior storage stability in terms of the viscosity in an aqueous solution. A vinyl alcohol polymer having a ratio ($M_w(A)/M_n(A)$) of the weight average molecular weight ($M_w(A)$) to the number average molecular weight ($M_n(A)$) of 3 or greater and 8 or less, and being capable of giving a vinyl alcohol polymer having a ratio (M_w/M_n) of a weight average molecular weight (M_w) to a number average molecular weight (M_n) of 2 or greater and less than 3 when treated at 40 °C for 1 hour in a sodium hydroxide solution.