

ABSTRACT

VACUUM AIR LOCK FOR A CLOSED PERIMETER SOLVENT CONSERVATION SYSTEM

A vacuum air lock assembly for transferring an article into an enclosure for treating the article with a solvent, the enclosure including a door for admitting the article into or out of the enclosure, the assembly including a chamber mounted on the enclosure and having an outer door, the chamber being sealed to the enclosure for transferring the article from the chamber through the enclosure door into the enclosure, a vacuum pump for drawing a vacuum in the chamber and discharging the air to atmosphere, the chamber being connected to the enclosure to break the vacuum in the chamber with solvent vapor from the enclosure, the article is transferred into the enclosure through the enclosure door for treatment and returned to the chamber after treatment, and the solvent vapor in the chamber is returned to the enclosure chamber through the vacuum pump and the vacuum in the chamber is broken to atmosphere.

FIGURE 1