

CROSS-LINKED PVOH COATINGS HAVING ENHANCED BARRIER CHARACTERISTICS

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5       An improved oxygen barrier layer for coating a  
substrate, such as a polymeric film. The oxygen barrier  
is a layer of cross-linked polyvinyl alcohol and glyoxal,  
10       which exhibits improved barrier characteristics to the  
transmission of oxygen. The oxygen barrier is produced  
by coating a solution of polyvinyl alcohol, glyoxal and  
tensioactive agent onto at least one side of a substrate  
adapted for receipt of such solution. The polyvinyl  
10       alcohol is thereafter cross-linked in the absence of a  
catalyst to provide the oxygen barrier.