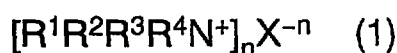


ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a method for stabilizing a crude oxymethylene copolymer having thermally unstable terminal groups, which comprises subjecting a crude oxymethylene copolymer to heat treatment in the presence of at least one quaternary ammonium compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 independently represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group which is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group substituted with at least one aryl group, or an alkylaryl group which is an aryl group substituted with at least one unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group; n is an integer of from 1 to 3; and X is a hydroxyl group or an acid residue. In this method, even by the addition of a very small amount of the quaternary ammonium compound, the decomposition rate of the unstable terminal groups can be remarkably increased, thereby facilitating the stabilization of the crude copolymer. Therefore, by this method, it has become possible to easily produce an excellent oxymethylene copolymer within a short period of time, which has substantially no unstable terminal groups and, therefore, has excellent thermal stability and color tone.

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