

TECHNICAL FIELD AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to the manufacture of plastic articles with an accent color pattern. The present invention relates particularly to an extrudable plastic material, such as variegated siding, having improved color and three-dimensional appearance.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Vinyl siding panels are widely used for protecting the exterior walls of buildings, as well as for enhancing the exterior appearance of buildings. The siding panels may have different profiles and exterior finishes, to provide variety in the exterior appearance they can provide to a building. Typically, the siding panels are nailed or otherwise secured to the building to fix them in place.

[0003] Formerly, in constructing vinyl siding panels, it was customary to extrude a sheet of vinyl with the entire profile formed therein, and to then cut the sheet of vinyl into panels of appropriate lengths. The sheet utilized conventional color concentrators designed to give it a desired coloration properties. The sheets could also be embossed or otherwise formed to add ornamentation to more closely simulate natural wood siding products.

[0004] In recent years the vinyl siding industry has switched to "post formed" vinyl siding, in which the siding is extruded as a flat sheet and then formed into the desired shape in post forming operations.

[0005] The industry has also switched from solid vinyl siding panels to co-extruded panels having a base substrate and an outer layer (commonly called a "capcoat" or "capstock" layer. The substrate layer is hidden from view when the siding is applied to a building, and is typically formed of conventional, relatively inexpensive but sturdy polyvinyl chloride (also known as rigid PVC). The substrate typically utilizes conventional color concentrators designed to give it a desired coloration properties. The outer layer forms the exposed, outer component