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3. The method of claim 1 further characterized in that said alumina sol is prepared by effecting a reduction in the acid anion concentration of an aqueous solution of a hydrolyzable acid salt of aluminum.

4. The method of claim 1 further characterized in that said alumina sol is an aluminum chloride sol prepared by effecting a reduction in the chloride anion concentration of an aqueous solution of aluminum chloride.

5. The method of claim 1 further characterized in that said alumina sol is an aluminum chloride sol prepared by effecting a reduction in the chloride anion concentration of an aqueous solution of aluminum chloride to provide an aluminum/chloride ratio of from

about 1:1 to about 2:1.

6. The method of claim 1 further characterized in that said sol contains from about 10 to about 20 wt. percent of said plasticizer.

7. The method of claim 1 further characterized in that said sol further contains from about 0.05 to about 0.5 wt. percent of a polyoxyethylene alcohol surfactant characterized by an average molecular weight of from about 200 to about 500.

8. The method of claim 1 further characterized in that said impregnated support is calcined at a temperature of from about 425° to about 1,100°C.

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