

# **Two Dimensional MXene / PVC Membrane for Removal of Lead and Bovine Serum Albumine**

**by**

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## **Abstract**

Since their inception in 2011, MXenes have attracted significant attention from a range of industries due to their fascinating architectures and alluring features. Given its two-dimensional multilayered structures, high mechanical strength, outstanding electrical conductivity, and customizable surface chemistry, MXene, a new family of two-dimensional (2D) multifunctional nanomaterials, has demonstrated exceptional performance in water treatment technologies. This study explores the synthesis of MXenes from MAX phases and then the fabrication of MXene-based membranes by incorporating them into the solution of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) polymer and Dimethylacetamide (DMAc) solvent for the first time to enhance ultrafiltration (UF) performance for wastewater treatment. The loading of MXene in the PVC solution was adjusted from 0 to 0.5g in order to create modified membranes. The

properties and performance of these membranes were thoroughly analyzed

using field emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM), contact angle (CA) measurements, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR),

Bovine serum albumin (BSA) rejection, pb metal ions rejection and water

permeation flux tests. Among the developed membranes, the N2-modified

PVC membrane, with 0.4g of MXene, exhibited the most favorable characteristics, including a contact angle of  $65.77^{\circ}$  and a porosity of 84.8%.

This membrane achieved the highest clean water permeation flux of 201.3

LMH, along with a 99.9%, 91.03% BSA, pb rejection rate respectively, and a flux recovery ratio (FRR) of 90.2%. ANOVA was employed to assess the significance of individual factors, while RSM was used to optimize membrane performance by modeling and analyzing the interactions between multiple variables. The incorporation of MXene nanosheets significantly enhanced membrane efficiency compared to neat PVC membranes, demonstrating the promising capabilities of MXene-