## **Supporting Information**

## Striking influence of $Fe_2O_3$ on the "catalytic carbonization" of chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride) into carbon microspheres with high performance in the photo-degradation of Congo red

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**Table S1** The effect of different catalyst (added amount: 5 g/100g CPVC) on the state of carbon product from commercial CPVC microspheres at 700 °C.

Product state	Catalyst
Microspheres	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , Fe(OH) <sub>3</sub> and Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> . (Total of 3 kinds)
"Sponge-like" carbon lump	(1) no catalyst;
	(2) common nickel catalyst: Ni <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , NiO, F-NiO, Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> , NiCl <sub>2</sub> ,
	NiSO <sub>4</sub> , Ni(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , NiCO <sub>3</sub> ·2Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O, Ni(COO) <sub>2</sub> and Ni(CO) <sub>5</sub> ;
	(10 kinds)
	(3) common cobalt catalyst: Co <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> , Co(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , Co(CH <sub>3</sub> COO) <sub>2</sub>
	and CoCl <sub>2</sub> ; (5 kinds)
	(4) common iron catalyst: Fe(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> , FeCl <sub>3</sub> , FeCl <sub>2</sub> , Fe powder, FeSO <sub>4</sub> ,
	FeS and $Fe(C_5H_5)_2$ ; (7 kinds)
	(5) common other catalyst: CuO, Cu(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , CuS, CuCl, CuBr, CuSO <sub>4</sub> ,
	Cu <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> ; MgCl <sub>2</sub> , MgO, Mg powder, MgCO <sub>3</sub> , Mg(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ;
	AgCl, AgNO <sub>3</sub> ; Cd(OH) <sub>2</sub> ; NH <sub>4</sub> Cl, NH <sub>4</sub> Br, BaCl <sub>2</sub> , SnCl <sub>4</sub> , SnCl <sub>2</sub> ,
	$SnO_2$ ; $MnO_2$ , $La(NO_3)_3$ , $HZSM$ (Si/Al=25, 100, 300; NKF-6 $\beta$ ;
	USY); ZnO (nanoscale), ZnO (microscale), ZnSO <sub>4</sub> , ZnCl <sub>2</sub> , Zn
	powder, Zn(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ; CaCl <sub>2</sub> , CaSO <sub>4</sub> , Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub> ; NaCl, Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> , ZrOCl,
	$Ce(NO_3)_3$ . (41 kinds)
	(Total of 63 kinds)

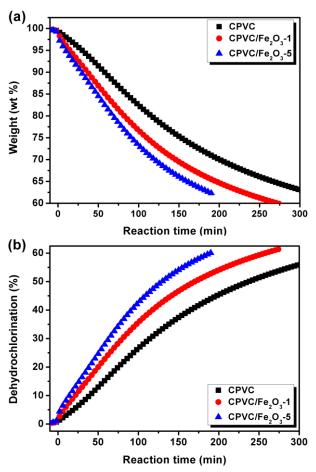


Fig. S1 TGA curves (a) and dehydrochlorination behaviour (b) of CPVC, CPVC/Fe $_2$ O $_3$ -1 and CPVC/Fe $_2$ O $_3$ -5 through time scanning at 225  $^{\circ}$ C under nitrogen atmosphere.