



Harry F. Bader

Non-staining AOs can solve 'pink problem'

I have a product which must be pure white. After cyclone drying following chlorination and neutralization, we observe a pinkish colour. Specifically, we see a yellow stain prior to chlorination which turns pink after chlorination.

Dr. Andrew Kell
Laboratory Manager

Pink staining is not uncommon and is usually due to anti-oxidant in the compound. Anti-oxidants having the number 2246 are made by several manufacturers. They work well except, when doing what they are supposed to do, they become pink. This is the case regardless of the polymer.

If you are using 2246, I suggest you change to a non-staining AO. If you are not using 2246, I would have the same recommendation. There are others that have the "pink problem". The yellowing is possibly an indication of process over-heating. Pinking is possibly from excessive heat after chlorination.

Chlorinated latex is very sensitive to heat. It should not be allowed to go above 125°F. To ensure that, temperature controls should have their probes placed in the chamber inlet air ducts (after the heating coil) and not in the air exit ducts. My recommendation is check the heat and change the AO.

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What is the most effective way of minimizing air bubbles in my latex compound? Anonymous – Submitted at 2001 Latex Conference in Akron, Ohio.

A simple answer is don't add bubbles to the latex compound. I see bubbles being added in dispersions that are virtually foam – add dewebber.

Bubbles are added by mixers that suck in air – slow down the mixer speed.

Bubbles are added by refill hoses which end above the latex level – extend the hose to below the latex surface.

Bubbles are added by the tank level being low and the latex going over the level plate much like a water fall – add more latex to the tank.

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What alternatives to a 'salt' type coagulant can be used for electricians' gloves?

Maulesh Shukla
Shukla Polymers

There are several alternatives but none is without problems.

1. *Solvent dipping:* Here, the problems are: Many dips are needed to reach the required thickness; solvent recovery system is needed; the process is flammable.
2. *Latex straight dipping:* In this case, the problems are: Many dips are needed to reach the required thickness.
3. *'Acid' coagulant dipping:* As with the 'salt' system, residues are conductive.
4. *Heat-sensitive coagulation:* Here, the process controls are difficult to maintain to ensure constant thickness and to avoid degradation of the latex compound.

All methods are being used someplace in the world. So, whichever you might choose to try, rest assured that "it can be done".

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We are manufacturers of rubber-foam products. Our problem is the presence of air-holes in the prod-

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Send your questions to:

'The Latex Doctor'
Rubber Asia,
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uct. Kindly give your valuable advice to eliminate this problem

Babu J. Anicatt
Relax Foam Industries

I assume you are referring to natural latex mechanical foam. I am also assuming the "air-holes" are places within the product where the foam has collapsed and a large hole is present. If these are correct assumptions, I suggest the following:

1. Check the chloroform pre-cure of the latex compound. Collapsing foam is due to excessive stability which prevents the foam from setting-up. A higher (say, 3 or 4) chloroform pre-cure level should help fix the problem. Let the compound age for 24 hours.

2. The addition of Trimene Base at a level of 0.75%, based on dry rubber content of the compound, can also help. Trimene Base is a product of Uniroyal Chemical.

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Can you give me tips on preserving surgical tubing. Can I store it in water, oil, or something?

Chris Lehman,
Baja Mexico

Most surgical tubing is made from natural rubber latex; therefore storage in water or oil is not good. However, if you are talking of silicone oil, as used in a condom lubricant, that would be satisfactory. It would still present a contamination problem.

Packaging such as used for condoms works well for latex product storage. Metal foil, pre-coated to allow heat sealing, could be used to make a tight fitting bag for a coil of tubing. This bag could be heat sealed closed, using a foam presser pad to press out the excess air before the bag is sealed.

Condoms having this type of packaging have lasted well over five years when stored in S.E. Asia.

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We are a latex foam manufacturer. For our overseas buyers, we need formulas to make flame/fire-proof foam. Also advise us if there are any new developments in foam technology (Dunlop Process). Kindly clarify.

N Ahammed Nazeer
MNK Rubber Industries
Nagercoil, India

Fire retarders listed in the *Rubber World Blue Book* (all products of US companies) are: Fireshield (Sb_2O_3): Laurel Industries, 30195 Chagrin Blvd., Cleveland, OH; 44124, Fax: 216-831-8479.

Zerogen 50 (MgOH): Harwick Standard, 60 S. Seiberling Street, P.O. Box: 9360, Akron, OH 44305-0360, Tel.: 330-798-9300, Fax: 330-798-0214

Wyfire H-A-85 (Sb_2O_3 85%) and Rhein Chemie Corporation, Wyfire T-EA-80P (Sb_2O_3 20%): 1008 Whitehead Road, Trenton, NJ; Tel: 609-771-9100, Fax: 609-771-0232

I have no experience with these materials. I suggest you contact them and request for brochures which will tell you how they are used and how effective they are. As to new foam technology, I suggest an internet search as a first step in an investigation of what is new in that industry.

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I need to purchase a micro-meter compliant with ASTM D 3767 (as referenced in D 3578) ASAP. Do you have contact information for a manufacturer? I seem to recall we used one purchased from "aims", but I cannot find anything on the Net. Your help is appreciated.

Thailand (anonymous by request)

If you want a gage to meet ASTM D 3767, contact the US firm: L S Starrett Company, 121 Crescent Street, Athol, MA 01331; Tel: 978-249-3551; Fax: 978-249-8495.

You must tell them if you want a gage with a presser foot pressure of 10 kpa. ASTM D 3767-01 does not cover hand-held spring gages. These are "not approved". But they are used throughout the industry.

If the presser foot pressure is correct, they are as accurate as the bench gages supplied by Starrett.

Measuring the pressure takes a bit of ingenuity.

The B.C. Ames Company is at: 121 Lexington Street, P.O. Box 540070, Waltham, MA 02254-0070; Tel: 781-893-0095; Fax: 781-647-3356.

I have Model 516L2 Ames on my desk. It works fine for latex products. However, you can't say it is up to ASTM D 3767 standards. ■