

Douglas and Sturges, Inc.

SCULPTURE TOOLS, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

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Latex 74

LATEX COMPOUND FOR MAKING FLEXIBLE MOLDS

Color	Off-White
Bass Polymer	Natural Rubber
Viscosity	Heavy Paste
pH	9.5
Total Solids	75 +/-2
Wt. Per Gallon	7.9 lbs

Latex molding compound is supplied in concentrated form so that application may be by brushing, spraying or dipping. If the latex solution appears to be too thick the viscosity maybe lowered by adding a small quantity of warm de-mineralized water with careful stirring.

This compound has very low shrinkage on drying and will reproduce an intricate surface in exact detail. It forms a soft, flexible, good aging rubber film when dried. It has excellent storage ability and will not phase out or separate on long standing.

APPLICATION:

Fasten the model to a glass plate or other firm non-porous object so that no handling will be necessary during application of the latex. The latex compound itself may be used as a cementing medium to fasten the model in place by simply pouring a small quantity on the non porous surface. Place the model therein and permit the assembly to dry.

If molding latex is applied by brushing, care must be taken to provide a smooth even first coat, with all air bubbles carefully brushed out. Brush from top of the model to the bottom then continue on out from the base a distance of about 1 -1/2" on the supporting medium. When dry, this marginal overlap provides a very definite aid to ease of handling in later casting operations. The overlap should be applied not only on the first latex applications, but on all subsequent ones as well.

After the first coat has become completely dry to the touch, subsequent coats may be added, allowing each to dry to the touch until a satisfactory film, thickness has been built up. Drying may be carried out at room temperature. The process will be greatly speeded if a current of air from an electric fan can be delivered across the surface of the model. Heat up to 180 F can be used to further speed drying if desired, but is not necessary. No curing is necessary.

If the model has a relatively large surface area, the first coat of latex should be applied as described above , but this must be followed with another applied as spots of latex on a checkerboard design. After the checkerboard application dries, the model must be given another overall application in the usual manner.

If additional coats are to be applied, the checkerboard application should be interspersed regularly.

This accomplishes a reduction in the tendency toward shrinkage and dimensions of the finished mold will be very close to those of the original model.

Reinforcement of the latex compound may be affected by applying strips of cheesecloth or similar fabric to the mold after three or four latex applications have been made. Cheesecloth may be cut into narrow strips and applied to a fresh coat of the latex. After this has dried, two or three coats of latex should be brushed over the fabric.

If a large number of reproductions are to be made and the shape of the mold is not too intricate, it is possible to build up a very heavy mold thickness through the use of a filling powder such as wood flour. The first two or three coats of latex are applied to the model in the usual manner and then added film thickness is built up by employing a mixture of latex and wood flour. Use equal parts of latex and wood flour by volume mixing them thoroughly to form a heavy paste. Applications of this material may be carried out with a spatula.

Should you have difficulty with plaster of parts sticking to the rubber sticking to the rubber mold, the interior of the latter should be moistened with a solution of dishwashing liquid and water prior to use. The surface should be completely dry before plaster is poured.

Latex molding compound has been prepared in ready-to-use form and no additions are necessary on your part to obtain a very satisfactory finished mold from it. Care must be taken to store the latex in tightly sealed containers in a cool dark place. Glass containers are preferable, but shipping containers may be used with only slight discoloration possible over long periods. The latex compound should never be exposed to freezing temperatures. At 40 – 45 F some tendency toward gelling may take place, but the original fluidity can then be restored by heating the latex to around 120 F.

Brushes or spray guns used to apply molding latex should be rinsed before and after use in solution of ammonia water. This permits the applicators to be cleaned readily and greatly prolongs their period of usefulness.

“The data, statements and recommendations (shown for information only) are based on tests which are believed to be reliable. Since we have no control over the end use of our products we cannot guarantee the end results. We suggest the user determine whether the product is suitable for his/her own production conditions.”