

Directions for Using MEKP Catalyst

MEKP stands for Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide and is for use with polyester resins. *This is a very dangerous material.*

Safety *

Catalyst is very corrosive and thus is a prohibited airfreight or postage item. It is also highly inflammable. Both heat and sunlight affect it and incorrect storage can render it useless. Ideally it should be stored under refrigeration. It has an attraction for milk food products and needs to be very well sealed or placed in a refrigerator that doesn't house food stuffs. We have found that it doesn't contaminate stubbies or cans!!

When mixing MEKP with resin, take care as a violent mixing action can splash it out of the mixing container. Use a measuring cup rather than a syringe as it can be shot into the container and bounce back into the eyes. Mix thoroughly and methodically into the resin otherwise some portions of resin may not be catalysed and thus not cure properly.

Keep out of reach of children and if they are to use it, make sure they are instructed in its use and are properly supervised.

These days, most resins you use will be pre accelerated or have accelerator added, usually of the cobalt variety (a purple liquid.) Should you be adding cobalt accelerator, it must be thoroughly dispersed in the resin prior to adding the catalyst. **The accidental mixing of cobalt accelerator with MEKP will result in a violent reaction =BANG!**

First Aid*

MEKP attacks eyes-Protect eyes while using. If splashed into the eyes immediately flood with water for 15 minutes and seek medical advice. *This is very important as permanent blindness can result within 15 seconds.*

If swallowed do not induce vomiting, give glass of water and seek medical advice

Avoid skin contact-Wear protective clothing. If skin contact does occur, remove all contaminated clothing and wash skin thoroughly. Seek medical advice

How much to use?

We usually express this in terms of percentage ie: 1% catalyst to resin = 10ml of catalyst to 1kg of resin. A rule of thumb for polyester laminating resin is between 1% and 2% i.e. 1% for summer (to give maximum wetting time) and 2% for winter.

For polyester Gelcoats used in a moulding situation, we recommend from 2% to 2.5% catalyst. The reason for this is that if the gelcoat is under cured, the backup laminating resin will bite into the gelcoat and cause wrinkling or puckering. If the gelcoat is to be used as a finish over a laminate, the 1% to 2% rule applies. The addition of 4 % styrene wax in the final coat, will give it a harder, less tacky finish.

You will have noted by now that we are measuring resin by weight-the reason is that it is the easiest way to be accurate. With polyester resin, kitchen scales will suffice. (Scales can always be put in a clear plastic bag, this keeps you out of trouble with the cook!) There really is NO substitute for using the weigh method.

The proportion of resin by volume is difficult because different resins have different specific gravity's, you leave a lot in the measuring cups and it is easier to read a dial than marks on the side of a test tube!

If you have to, a rough rule of thumb (or maybe a whole hand!) is to reckon 1Ltr weighs approximately 1.1kg. This means a ½ litre milk carton will hold approximately 550gm or a 375ml al beer or coke can will hold approximately 425gm. **We do not recommend this method!**

Resin

