

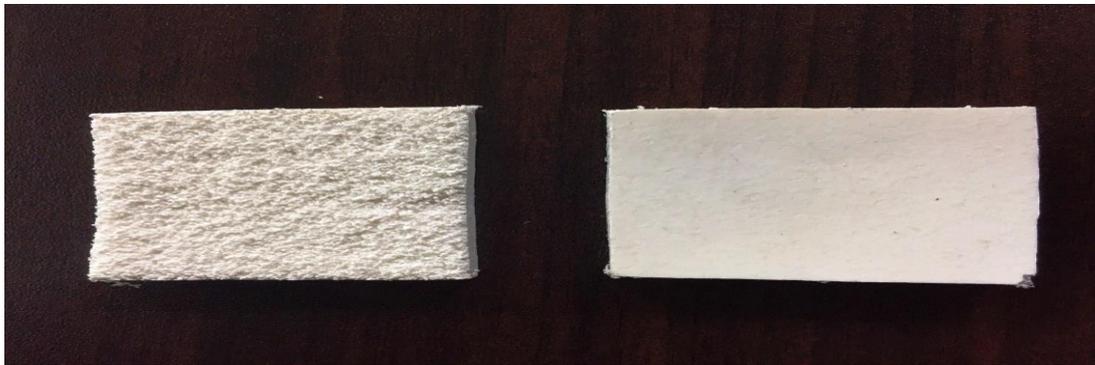
RMPP141

Rotational Molding Processing Guide

OVEN CONDITIONS:

Polypropylene has a higher melting point than polyethylene therefore higher oven temperatures are required to ensure proper sintering of the powder during molding.

The photo below shows the internal surface of a part molded at the same conditions as LMDPE oven temp **480°F (250°C)**. The internal surface has not been sintered, unmelted powder is evident. An increase in oven temperature to **570°F (300°C)** resulted in a good internal surface.



As a guideline the recommended oven temperature is **530°F to 570°F. (275 to 300 deg C)**

PIAT: (Peak Internal Air Temperature) - an important tool for the molder.

The optimum mechanical properties and best surface finish (internal and external) are realized when the **PIAT is in the range of 437°F to 455°F. (225 to 235 deg C)**

TIME IN OVEN:

The oven time is typically **4 mins / millimeter of part thickness** (4 mins / .04 inch). It is suggested that this oven time is chosen initially then adjusted accordingly depending on the molded part properties.

A starting point is to **increase the oven time by 15%** compared with PE for the same shot weight.

When de-molding, if the internal air has a strong smell, the material is probably “overcooked”, so reduce the oven time.

MOLD VENTING;

Effective venting is required. It is suggested that the “**Supavent^R**” type products are used.

The use of this type of “automatic” vent increases the internal mold pressure during heating improving the external surface finish. It also minimizes the vacuum during cooling ensuring no parting line “blow Holes”.

COOLING TIME:

The cooling time required is similar to that of polyethylene.

RMPP141 crystallizes at a temperature of about 255⁰F (125 deg C) which is much higher than LMDPE, therefore, the part can be removed from the mold at a higher temperature.

Insulated gloves should be worn and care taken when handling parts at these temperatures.

Do not measure mechanical properties until polymer crystallization is complete. It can take 2 to 3 days after molding, before optimum surface and mechanical properties are achieved.

OPTIMISING WEIGHT:

Shot weight can be reduced by up to 30% vs C6 LMDPE and still yield satisfactory performance.

This will depend on the attribute you seek to achieve when using RMPP141 instead of PE. This lower shot weight will result in a thinner wall section, so the total cycle time will be similar to molding of PE.

MOLD RELEASE:

Mold release agent is **not normally** required with **RMPP141**. It releases from the mold more readily than PE.

Cleaning the mold of release agent deposits prior to molding is recommended to minimize “ghosting” of the external surface of the part.

SHRINKAGE:

RMPP141 shrinkage is typically **1.5%- 2.5%** and around 3.0%-3.5% for PE.

COLORING:

As relatively high oven temperatures are needed to process RMPP141 this limits the number of pigments that can be used. The pigment chosen must be stable during molding. If the part is for outside use then light stability and weatherability must be considered also.

Although inorganic pigments typically have good heat and weathering characteristics, their poorer chroma and color tint capability compared with organic pigments requires higher amounts to be used, however.

To obtain optimum dispersion and mechanical properties, we strongly recommend compounding.

If dry coloring is essential; the recommendation is to use a maximum of .05% pigment mixed in a high speed mixer with a pigment wetting agent.

A suggested method is to mix: **30parts pigment with 70 parts Licocene 6102FG.**(this is a metallocene PP wax from Clariant). In a high speed mixer, then disperse this concentrate at a maximum of 5gms / kg (.05%) with natural RMPP141 powder. High pigment concentrations will result in lower mechanical properties, particularly ARM impact

CONTACT:

If you have any concerns relating to the processing of **RMPP141**, please contact sales@psdrotoworx.com

Important

The information contained in this document is of a general nature only and is intended to provide an indication of the potential properties and benefits of a particular polypropylene compound. The statistical and other information provided in this document has been determined in laboratory test conditions. Accordingly, there may be differences in performance in a production environment including having regard to the materials used.

The information contained in this document should not be used as a sole basis for production or manufacturing purposes. Independent testing verification and independent professional advice should be obtained before making a decision to use any product or to apply any method or process.

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