
Smart Putty & Smart Gum

SEP 011 / SEP 012

These two silicon-based materials are examples of visco-elastic polymers. They are relatively soft and mouldable, but assume rubber-like properties when impacted. For this reason, smart putty is available as a 'toy'; it can be moulded by hand into a ball and then bounced. Although the putty is sold as an amusement, it does have serious applications. It is used, for example, as a medium for carrying grit to clean and polish channels and cavities in ultra-hard components such as turbine blades.

The gum is a less viscous material and will creep or flow quite readily under gravity. This property can be used to illustrate fluid flow characteristics (at ultra-low speed) and it can also be exploited in the design of unusual products - e.g., a clock or timer that uses a steel ball falling through gum in a clear cylinder.

Both materials can be used in other applications such as mechanical damping.

More information on these is available in an SEP publication entitled 'Going with the Flow'. This examines the rheological characteristics of a range of materials including 'Slime' and domestic foods.

A full Health and Safety Data sheet is available on request.

Supplied by:

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