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Technical Data Sheet

DOWSIL™ 3-4088 Dielectric Gel

Two-part, 1 to 1 mix ratio dielectric gel

Features & Benefits

- Fast room temperature cure
- No ovens required
- Low viscosity allows for good flow under components
- Two-part
- High tack

Composition

- Polydimethylsiloxane

Applications

- DOWSIL™ 3-4088 Dielectric Gel is suitable for sealing and protecting various devices, especially those with delicate components.

Typical Properties

Specification Writers: These values are not intended for use in preparing specifications.

Property	Unit	Result
Mixing Ratio (Two-Part)	w/w	1:1
Color		
Viscosity (Part A)	cP Pa-sec	775 0.775
Viscosity (Part B)	cP Pa-sec	700 0.7
Viscosity (Mixed)	cP Pa-sec	875 0.875
Working Time at 25°C (Pot Life)	mins	4.5
Specific Gravity (Uncured) Part A	n/a	0.97
Specific Gravity (Uncured) Part B	n/a	0.96
Gel Time	mins	11
Gel Hardness		55
Dielectric Strength	Volts/mil kV/mm	500 19.5

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Typical Properties (Cont.)

Property	Unit	Result
Dielectric Constant at 100 Hz		2.5
Dielectric Constant at 100 kHz		2.8
Volume Resistivity	Ohm*cm	2.0×10^{13}
Dissipation Factor at 100 Hz		0.0025
Dissipation Factor at 100 kHz		0.0022
Shelf Life	months	12

Description

Two-part gels offer more processing flexibility with the options of room-temperature with no need for ovens or heat-accelerated cure if faster processing is protected by coating, encapsulating or potting various PCB system assemblies, especially those with delicate components. Gels are a special class of encapsulant that cure to an extremely soft material. Gels cure in place to materials. Cured gels retain much of the stress relief and self-healing qualities of a liquid while providing the dimensional stability of an elastomer which is increasingly needed for delicate components. Gels have been used to isolate circuits from the harmful effects of moisture and other contaminants and provide electrical insulation for high voltages. Another use is providing stress relief to protect circuits and interconnections from thermal and mechanical stresses. Gels are usually applied in thick layers to totally encapsulate higher architectures. More recently, gels have found application in optoelectronics due to their stress relieving capability and high refractive index, as well as the stability of these properties over time.

Mixing And De-Airing

Some gels are supplied in bladder packs that avoid direct air contact with the liquid gel components, allowing use of air pressure over the pack in a pressure pot for dispensing. Do not apply air pressure directly to the liquid gel surface (without the bladder pack) as the gel can become supersaturated with air and bubbling can occur when the material is dispensed and cured. Use of bladder packs prevents bubbling, maintains cleanliness and avoids gel contamination. Gels can be dispensed manually or by using one of the available types of meter mix equipment. Typically, the two components are of matched viscosities and are readily mixed with static or dynamic mixers, with automated meter-mix normally used for high volume processes. For low-volume applications, manual weighing and simple hand mixing may be appropriate. Inaccurate proportioning or inadequate mixing may cause localized or widespread problems affecting the gel properties or cure characteristics. If possible, the potential for entrapment and incorporation of gas (typically air) should be considered during design of the part and selection of a process to mix and dispense the gel. This is especially important with higher-viscosity and faster-curing gels. Degassing at > 28 inches (10–20 mm) Hg vacuum may be necessary to ensure a void-free, protective layer.

Pot Life And Cure Rate

Working time (or pot life) is the time required for the initial mixed viscosity to double at Room Temperature (RT). The cure reaction begins when Parts A and B are mixed. As the cure progresses, viscosity increases until the material becomes a soft gel. Cure is defined as the time required for a specific gel to reach 90% of its final properties. Gels will reach a no-flow state prior to full cure. Addition-cure silicone gels may be room temperature and heat cure or exclusively heat cure. Adding heat accelerates the cure reaction. Additional time should be allowed for heating the part to near oven temperature. Cure schedules should be verified in each new application.

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Useful Temperature Ranges

For most uses, silicone gels should be operational over a temperature range of -45 to 150°C (-49 to 302°F) for long periods of time. However, at both the low and high temperature ends of the spectrum, behavior of the materials and performance in particular applications can become more complex and require additional considerations and should be adequately tested for the particular end-use environment. For low-temperature performance, thermal cycling to conditions such as -55°C (-67°F) may be possible, but performance should be verified for your parts or assemblies. Factors that may influence performance are configuration and stress sensitivity of components, cooling rates and hold times, and prior temperature history. At the high-temperature end, the durability of the cured silicone elastomer is time and temperature dependent. As expected, the higher the temperature, the shorter the time the material will remain useable.

Compatibility

Certain materials, chemicals, curing agents and plasticizers can inhibit the cure of addition cure gels. Most notable of these include: organotin and other organometallic compounds, silicone rubber containing organotin catalyst, sulfur, polysulfides, polysulfones or other sulfur containing materials, unsaturated hydrocarbon plasticizers, and some solder flux residues. If a substrate or material is questionable with respect to potentially causing inhibition of cure, it is recommended that a small scale compatibility test be run to ascertain suitability in a given application. The presence of liquid or uncured product at the interface between the questionable substrate and the cured gel indicates incompatibility and inhibition of cure.

Handling Precautions

PRODUCT SAFETY INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR SAFE USE IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT. BEFORE HANDLING, READ PRODUCT AND SAFETY DATA SHEETS AND CONTAINER LABELS FOR SAFE USE, PHYSICAL AND HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION. THE SAFETY DATA SHEET IS AVAILABLE ON THE DOW WEBSITE AT CONSUMER.DOW.COM, OR FROM YOUR DOW SALES APPLICATION ENGINEER, OR DISTRIBUTOR, OR BY CALLING DOW CUSTOMER SERVICE.

Usable Life And Storage

Shelf life is indicated by the “Use Before” date found on the product label. Refer to the product label for storage temperature requirements. Special precautions must be taken to prevent moisture from contacting these materials. Containers should be kept tightly closed and head or air space minimized. Partially filled containers should be purged with dry air or other gases, such as nitrogen.

Limitations

This product is neither tested nor represented as suitable for medical or pharmaceutical uses.

Health And Environmental Information

To support customers in their product safety needs, Dow has an extensive Product Stewardship organization and a team of product safety and regulatory compliance specialists available in each area.

For further information, please see our website, consumer.dow.com or consult your local Dow representative.

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