

Teknor Apex: New wet-grip Monprene TPEs

Teknor Apex has announced that it will introduce a new series of “wet-grip” TPE compounds for injection molding applications at NPE2012.

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The Monprene Wet Grip Series styrenic block copolymer compounds are said to minimize or even eliminate the problem encountered with many standard TPEs in soft-touch applications like grips, handles, knobs, and cushions. These products often become slippery and hard to handle when wet from rain, humidity, sweat, dishwater, or other commonly encountered substances. The new Monprene products are said to retain their rubber-like traction when wet, while providing the same elasticity and other key mechanical properties. They are available in hardnesses from 10 to 45 Shore A and can be applied onto a variety of substrates by means of two-shot, coinjection, or insert molding.

In tests measuring the coefficient of friction of a standard styrenic TPE with a Monprene wet-grip grade, the new compound exhibited a coefficient that was 25% greater when surfaces were wet with plain water and 175% greater in the case of soapy water, the company said.

“Teknor Apex has spent more than a year perfecting Monprene Wet Grip Series TPEs so that manufacturers of housewares, appliances, personal care items, tools, and sporting goods are able to make their products easier and safer to handle,” said Brian Mulvany, senior consumer market manager. “The proprietary wet-grip chemistry that we have developed addresses everyday situations in the real world, where workers must handle tools, cooks use utensils, and golfers grip clubs regardless of surface conditions.”

Potential applications include soft touch components in shaving razors, toothbrushes, writing instruments, paint brushes, hair brushes, hair dryers, hand tools, kitchen appliances, cooking utensils, vacuum cleaners, mops, rakes, shovels, scissors, and sporting equipment.

Teknor Apex at NPE2012
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<http://www.gupta-verlag.com/general/news/technology/11022/teknor-apex-new-wet-grip-monprene-tpes>