

Storage & Care of Natural Latex Goods and Articles

Your 100% natural latex parts are made from only the highest quality, hevea-type natural latex. This material has wonderful elasticity and strength and has a unique "feel" which is unmatched by any synthetic material. Our latex comes in its natural (unpigmented) color, which is an amber color, as well as pigmented with black, gray, and many custom colors.

The latex is completely natural, and while it contains some anti-oxidants to help preserve it and extend its life, it will eventually deteriorate and is completely biodegradable. The anti-oxidants in the latex are typically wax-like materials, which protect the rubber surface from oxidation. It sometimes can be seen on the surface as a very slight haze or frost on the surface of older parts. Unpigmented latex can also darken slightly with age, this will not affect its physical properties.

To extend its usable life there are several things, which the user should do:

First: **Never** expose it to a petroleum-based product. This will begin an immediate and irreversible deterioration of the rubber. These products include: gasoline, motor oil, solvents, mineral oil, baby oil, and Vaseline. Oil from human skin will also eventually attack the latex, although this deterioration will take longer than petroleum products.

Second: Always store your product in its "relaxed" state. That is, it should not be stretched or folded during storage. Lay it out as near to its natural original shape as possible. Areas that are folded or stressed will weaken and crack much sooner than areas that are relaxed.

Third: Always store rubber parts in a **COOL - DARK - DRY** location. Under most circumstances a closed cardboard box is the best type container to use. Sealed plastic bags should be avoided as they trap moisture and prevent the rubber from "breathing".

Heat will cause the latex to soften and possibly darken rapidly.

Ultraviolet rays from sunlight will attack latex and crack the surface.

Ozone emitted from fluorescent lights and electric motors will also deteriorate the surface if the latex is exposed to it for long periods of time.

Moisture can cause the latex to become sticky and foster the growth of mold or mildew. Whenever the rubber is exposed to water or a moist environment be sure and thoroughly dry the rubber. A light dusting of talc (baby powder) can help keep the dried surface from sticking and grabbing.

Cleaning

- Latex can be gently washed in order to remove soil from the surface.
 - If at all possible it should be washed in warm water using a non-ionic soap, do NOT use detergent. Harsh detergents will attack the latex.
 - The Latex should be dried immediately. If possible opened up the part so rubber does not touch rubber, this will keep it from sticking together.
 - Small Latex parts can be tumble-dried at low heat with a little talc and a few soft rags; it will come out smooth and dry.
 - If a slick or slippery surface is desired, a light coating of rubber protectant like liquid ArmorAll may be applied to the rubber to help reduce oxidation.
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