

Custom masking improves powder coating process

Custom molded masks can improve the powder coating process dramatically by addressing quality issues, making consistency the norm and lowering production times.

Before investing in custom molded masking, there are several steps you should take.

The first step is to ensure your supplier has a reliable method in place to deliver the solution you need. Secondly, you need to identify any problems with your process and be ready to explain those issues to your masking supplier. Thirdly, you need to have knowledge of the features and benefits of a good custom molded mask.

At Caplugs, we have a history of supplying custom masking solutions. Not only do we have a reliable method in place to ensure you get what you need, we also have a range of features that will allow the masks to perform efficiently and improve your powder coating process.



Features to consider

Color. Color can be a useful feature to help identify masks. Color can help denote size and highlight which product the masks should fit on. It can also identify age. By producing a custom mask in green when it is first ordered and in red the next time it is ordered, you can be sure of the age of your masks.

Material. For powder coating, the material of choice is silicone. It is a flexible material that can resist the high temperatures of the powder coating process. For custom masks, it is possible to vary certain elements in order to make the mask perform differently. The mask can be made more or less flexible, which means the powder that may become coated on the mask can be removed more easily, depending on the application.

Orientation. To ensure that masks are fitted correctly, text can be added to help with orientation or identification. Physical features can also be added so the mask can only fit the correct way on the part.

Recognition. Physical features can also be added to make a portion of the mask stand out in order to help an image sensor or robot identify the part. A raised stud or post on a mask can be picked up by a sensor which can recognize if the correct parts are being coated.



Magnetic masks. Magnets can be incorporated into masks to help them grip onto a part. If a large flat surface needs to be masked, the built-in magnets help hold it together and quicken application.

Often a good custom mask has a combination of all of these features. It has a distinctive shape, made from a custom compound, with engraving to identify the part and may have magnets built into it for optimal adhesion.

Contact Caplugs now to learn how we can make your masking process more efficient. Visit us at caplugsmasking.com to register for your free comprehensive catalog, masking sample kit or our informative brochure, "Optimizing the Masking Step in Your Finishing Process."



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www.caplugs.com/masking
1.888.CAPLUGS | sales@caplugs.com