

Versatile Vinyl

Why vinyl is not just for low temperature basic masking caps



Caps with handles can dramatically speed up installation and removal.



Vinyl isn't only for round caps.

Vinyl caps have been available for masking for a long time and are ideal masking for wet paint or any low temperature surface finishing process. Vinyl, however, is an extremely versatile material and can be made into more than a basic masking cap.

Vinyl has been around since the early 1900's when researchers were looking for a substitute to natural rubber. It is a liquid material that is formed into shape by a dip molding process. In addition to caps it is also used to coat metal parts to increase durability or give them a soft look and feel.

In surface finishing the most common application of vinyl is for masking caps. Vinyl caps are available in a range of different inside diameters. Usually they are

colour coded so it is easy to identify different diameters. They are also available in a range of different lengths. Most vinyl caps can withstand temperatures up to 177°C / 350°F, so they are traditionally used in low temperature applications.

But, vinyl caps for low temperature applications are not the only area in masking where vinyl can be used. Vinyl is a

versatile material that can also have a high temperature resistance. High-temperature vinyl can be formulated to resist temperatures of 246°C / 475°F. High-temperature vinyl products are often given names such as Flex500 to ensure they stand out from the traditional vinyl products.

Although most vinyl caps are a simple domed end cap, ergonomic vinyl caps are available where the end is shaped to help you pull the cap off the product. This shaping speeds up the application and removal of the cap. The shape can either be a recess which the thumb and finger can grip onto or it can be a flange around the domed end of the cap.

Vinyl caps made from multiple materials are also now available. Portions of the cap can be made to have a very rough surface, making them a lot easier to grip. This is especially useful for people who are wearing gloves when they are applying or removing the masking.

Vinyl can be molded into very complex shapes. Tapered plugs made from vinyl are available. Vinyl plugs with threads built into them can be manufactured. Caps with a tether on them, so the cap is retained on the part for transportation, are available. It is also possible to use different vinyl materials to produce a single part. This allows the inner portion of a complex cap to have different properties to the outside.

If you are interested in pursuing vinyl as a material for your masking, a good masking supplier such as Caplugs or Greentree can help and advise you.

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