

RACHANA RUBBER

Providing custom solutions for latex compounds and products

Rachana Rubber was established in 1972 by visionary and entrepreneur late Gopalji Thakkar as a manufacturer of high-quality dipped latex goods and moulded rubber goods.



Hemant Thakkar

In business for nearly 40 years now, in its present form Rachana Rubber is in the business of custom formulated latex compounds long with aqueous dispersions and emulsions for latex compounds along with various latex specific chemicals such as defoamers, surfactants etc.

In 2009 the management team at Rachana decided to specialize in providing the Indian and Sri Lankan latex industry with tailor-made solutions to the latex industry and so they diversified into the distribution of high-quality aqueous chemical dispersions and emulsions for latex compounds from Akron Dispersions Inc., USA, and auxiliary chemicals for latex compounds from Manufacturers Chemicals LLC, USA

Product Portfolio and Principals

Akron Dispersions Inc, USA

For over 50 years, Akron Dispersions Inc. has served the Latex, Polymer, Coating and Adhesive Industries with exceptional products, service and support. Their long-standing commitment to quality and innovation

enables them to offer a wide array of technologies producing dispersions, emulsions, and formulations specific to the manufacturing needs of the customer.

Products offered are:

- Aqueous Dispersions for Latex Compounds (Accelerators, Activators, Pigments, Curatives, Antioxidants etc.)
- Aqueous Emulsions for Latex Compounds (Oils, Waxes, Plasticizers etc)
- Aqueous Chemical Cure Masterbatches (Composite) for Natural and Synthetic Latex.

Manufacturers Chemicals LLC, USA

Manufacturers Chemicals LLC has been one of the largest custom chemical formulators in the United States since 1919. That's over 90 years of dedicated service to customers; doing their best to provide them quality, affordable chemicals.

Speciality products offered for the latex industry:

- Surfactants - Manawet 172, Manawet WAQ, Manawet A-18
- Dispersing agents - Manasperse SN(No.1) and Manasperse LGS (No. 2)
- Defoamers (silicone and non-silicone) - Antifoam 30L and Defoamer 5729.
- Thickening Agents - Manathick 031)
- Foaming agents - Manawet Als-28)
- Stabilizers - Manawet 172
- Process Aids (Manawet SMO and Manawet SBO)

The 'Latex' advantage from Rachana

"After entering the latex industry, one of the first things everyone is told : 'Latex compounding and manufacturing is an art, not a science'. While this may be very true, precision is the key to achieving high quality latex compounds and products. Whether it is making dispersions and emulsions cor-



Jim Finn

rectly or using the right surfactants, dispersing agents and defoamers, there is a definite science to it. Our principals use the right science to help us deliver a custom solution to your latex compounding and manufacturing needs,” says Hemant Thakkar, Director, Technical Sales, Rachana Rubber.

Latex and other water based polymeric materials can be “compounded” or formulated with a number of chemical ingredients to achieve, enhance, stabilize and protect their unique physical and chemical properties. These chemical ingredients are added to the latex in the form of fine particle size water-based dispersions and emulsions.

Particle size, a critical factor in the manufacture and selection of an aqueous dispersion, is characterized not only by particle diameter but by the frequency within a given size range i.e the particle size distribution. Highly sophisticated cylindrical mills are used for manufacturing and a laser diffraction instrument is used to measure these critical parameters to assure batch to batch uniformity.

High performance Latex compounds begin with consistent, reliable aqueous dispersions coupled with the right axillary compounds such as surfactants and defoamers, to help keep the latex compound stable over the course of the production cycle.

“For years we have been helping our customers design and formulate latex compounds for critical applications. Our goal is to provide you with exceptional products and service.

All our individual and composite masterbatch dispersions, emulsions and axillary chemicals are manufactured with the same philosophy to give the customer the optimum product to help their business grow. Processing decisions are based on what’s best for the customers, and on this there is no compromise,” adds Hemant Thakkar.

People at the helm

Hemant Thakkar, Director-Technical Sales, Rachana Rubber

Hemant Thakkar got his BE in Polymer Engineering from MIT, Pune and MS in Polymer Engineering from the University of Akron, Ohio, USA, with a thesis specialization in Layered Silicate Nanocomposites. In 2003, he joined Akron Rubber Development Laboratory, Inc. Akron, Ohio, as a Polymer Engineer and specialized in solid rubber compounding, formulation development and testing, while also working extensively

with Harry Bader, known as the Latex Doctor in Rubber Asia. From 2008 to 2010, he was Manager of Rubber Division Laboratory at Greene Tweed & Co., USA which manufactures high-end sealing systems for the Aerospace, Petroleum, Petrochemical and Semi-conductor industries. In his present position he is Director, Technical Sales and Partner in Rachana Rubber. He has a strong background in rubber and latex chemistry, physical and analytical testing of polymer materials and finished parts, problem solving, quality control and process enhancement.

Jim Finn, President, Akron Dispersions, Inc.

Jim Finn attended Kent State University, receiving his B.S. in Biology/Chemistry in 1973 and his Masters in Business Administration, in 1983. In 1968 he began his career at General Tyre’s Research Chemical Pilot Plant. In 1973-78, he was a process chemist for Sherwood Medical Industries. In 1978, he joined Kent Latex Products as a plant chemist and left in 1993, as the VP – Operations. He has been with Akron Dispersions since 1993 and is currently the President of the organization. Finn has authored technical papers on the manufacture of products from natural and synthetic latex and has been involved in a variety of latex industry consulting activities. He has been Chairman of the International Latex Conference since 1998.

Warren Stidham, Sales and Marketing Manager, Manufacturers Chemicals LLC

Stidham’s first job in the chemical industry was at Chemetron Chemicals in Newport, Tennessee where he worked as a lab technician while he simultaneously went to University to become a chemist at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Later Warren joined Polysar Latex in Chattanooga (now owned by BASF) where he was promoted to Technical Service and Sales and later Sales Manager. He was the first person at Polysar US to be Product Manager in the newly created Marketing Group. After 18 years at Polysar he moved to Standard Adhesives and Chemicals (largest supplier of Axillaries to the US latex industry) in Dalton, Georgia where he was he was Executive VP and GM. He later started his company Surfactant Systems in Dalton where he produced and sold surfactants for latex which was then bought out by Manufacturers Chemicals LLC which is Warren’s current employer. He has been in various positions as a technically oriented sales/marketing manager with them since. ■