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CARBON BLACK CONTAINING EPDM COMPOSITIONS
HAVING EITHER A HIGH GLOSS OR A TEXTURED MATTE FINISH

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to EPDM compositions containing certain carbon blacks which when extruded or shaped have either a high gloss finish or a textured matte finish.

BACKGROUND

Carbon blacks have been widely utilized as fillers and reinforcing pigments in the compounding and preparation of EPDM compositions. Carbon blacks are generally characterized on the basis of their properties including, but not limited to, their surface areas, surface chemistry, aggregate sizes, and particle sizes. The properties of carbon blacks are analytically determined by tests known to the art, including iodine adsorption number (I_2 No.) and dibutyl phthalate adsorption (DBP).

Heretofore generally known carbon black containing EPDM compositions yield profiles having a dull and flat surface finish when extruded or shaped. In contrast, a smooth glossy finish has a high degree of reflectance when viewed at any angle, in part due to the smooth nature of the surface. Conversely, a textured matte finish has a low degree of reflectance due in part to the rugged nature of the surface. EPDM compositions with high gloss or textured matte finishes are useful in industrial applications such as automotive weather stripping.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

We have discovered EPDM compositions containing certain carbon blacks that yield profiles having either high gloss or textured matte finishes when extruded or shaped. The EPDM compositions comprise ethylene-propylene diene monomer (EPDM)

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and a specified carbon black, which when incorporated into the EPDM will provide articles having a desired textured matte finish.

The amount of carbon black in the EPDM composition is such that the EPDM composition will, when extruded or shaped, yield profiles having a textured matte finish. The amounts of carbon black utilized range from 100 to about 300 parts by weight for each 100 parts by weight of EPDM. It is, however, preferred to use amounts varying from about 150 to about 250 parts by weight of carbon black per 100 parts by weight of EPDM.

EPDM is well known and is commercially available from a variety of sources. The EPDM composition of the present invention may be produced by techniques generally known to those of ordinary skill in the art for mixing rubbers or polymers and carbon black. As will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art the textured matte finish EPDM compositions of the present invention are produced after extruding or otherwise shaping the carbon black-EPDM mixture.

The textured matte finish EPDM compositions of the present invention are advantageous for use in applications where a textured matte finish is desirable. One such application is automotive weatherstripping.

Other advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following more detailed description of the invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The EPDM compositions which will yield a high gloss finish comprise EPDM and a carbon black selected from the group consisting of carbon blacks having a CTAB of about 10 m²/g to about 30 m²/g and a ratio of DBP/CTAB greater than about 4, preferably a CTAB of about 25 m²/g and a ratio of DBP/CTAB of about 5.3; and carbon blacks having a CTAB of about 30 m²/g to about 70 m²/g and a DBP greater than about 125 cc/100g, preferably a DBP of about 125 cc/100g to about 160 cc/100g, and most preferably a CTAB of about 47 m²/g and a DBP of about 126 cc/100g.

The EPDM compositions of the present invention which will yield a textured matte finish comprise EPDM and a carbon black having a CTAB of about 10 m²/g to about 70 m²/g and a ratio of DBP/CTAB less than about 1.5, preferably a CTAB of about 45 m²/g and a ratio of DBP/CTAB of about 1.0, and most preferably a CTAB of about 67 m²/g and a ratio of DBP/CTAB of about 0.7.

The amount of carbon black in the compositions of the present invention is sufficient to allow the EPDM composition to yield a profile having a textured matte finish after extruding or shaping. The amounts of carbon black to be incorporated into the EPDM compositions of the present invention range from 100 to about 300 parts by weight carbon black per 100 parts by weight EPDM, preferably from about 150 to about 250 parts by weight carbon black per 100 parts by weight EPDM.

The textured matte finish EPDM compositions of the present invention may also contain conventional additives such as oils, stabilizers, oxides, acids, curing agents etc. known to those of ordinary skill in the art as useful for incorporation into, and during the formation of, EPDM compositions.

The textured matte finish EPDM compositions of the present invention may be produced in any manner known to those of ordinary skill in the art for producing EPDM compositions incorporating carbon blacks. One method for producing the textured matte finish compositions

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of the present invention, utilizing a Banbury BR mixer, is as follows.

The Banbury BR mixer is started and maintained at a temperature of 45° C and a rotor speed of 77 RPM. EPDM is added to the mixer and mixed for approximately 30 seconds. Oil, and preferably zinc oxide and stearic acid, or compounds having similar properties, are added to the EPDM and mixed for approximately 2 additional minutes. The carbon black is added to the mixture and the temperature of the mixing chamber is cooled and maintained at a temperature of below approximately 135° C. The carbon black - EPDM mixture is mixed for approximately 4 1/2 minutes and then curing agents are added to the mixture. The resulting mixture is mixed for approximately 1 1/2 minutes while the temperature is maintained at below approximately 135° C. The compound is then discharged from the mixer and extruded, or otherwise formed and cooled to form the high gloss or textured matte finish EPDM compositions of the present invention. By way of example, the batch compound may be extruded on a Brabender extruder at 50 RPM and 100° C through a die having an opening of 1 inch in width and 0.020 inch in height. This will yield a profile having a textured matte finish.

Although one method for producing the textured matte finish EPDM compositions of the present invention has been described, the textured matte finish EPDM compositions of the present invention may be produced by other methods for producing polymer or rubber compositions known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

The following testing procedures are used in the determination and evaluation of the analytical properties of the carbon blacks utilized in the following examples.

The DBP (dibutyl phthalate adsorption value) of the carbon black was determined according to the procedure set forth in ASTM D2414. The I₂No. (iodine adsorption number) of the carbon blacks was determined according to ASTM D1510. CTAB (cetyl-trimethyl ammonium bromide) absorption value of the carbon blacks was determined according to ASTM Test

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Procedure D3765-85. Tinting strength (Tint) of the carbon blacks was determined according to ASTM Test Procedure D3265-85a. The CDBP (dibutyl phthalate adsorption value) of the crushed carbon blacks was determined according to the procedure set forth in ASTM D3493-86.

The effectiveness and advantages of the present invention will be further illustrated by the following example.

EXAMPLE

Eighteen EPDM compositions were prepared incorporating six different carbon blacks at each of three different loading levels into EPDM. Carbon blacks A and B were utilized to produce textured matte finish EPDM compositions of the present invention RA1 - RA3 and RB1 - RB3, respectively. Two control carbon blacks, C and D, were utilized to produce EPDM compositions RC1 - RC3 and RD1 - RD3, respectively. Carbon blacks E and F were utilized to produce high gloss EPDM compositions RE1-RE3 and RF1-RF3, respectively. The analytical properties of the carbon blacks A-F were as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1
Carbon Blacks

	A	B	C	D	E	F
I ₂ No. (mg/g)	40	63	30	35	22	51
CTAB (m ² /g)	45	67	30	36	25	47
DBP (cc/100g)	44	49	69	91	132	126
CDBP cc/100g	43	45	59	72	77	83
Tint (%)	80	101	52	57	33	60
DBP/CTAB	1.0	0.7	2.3	2.5	5.3	2.7

EPDM compositions RA1, RA2, RA3; RB1, RB2, RB3; RC1, RC2, RC3; RD1, RD2, RD3; RE1, RE2, RE3; and RF1, RF2, RF3 were prepared utilizing each of the carbon black samples in amounts of 150 parts by weight, 200 parts by weight and 250 parts by weight

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parts by weight, 200 parts by weight and 250 parts by weight in the EPDM Compound Formulation shown below in Table 3. The carbon black and amount by weight of the carbon black utilized in the EPDM compositions were as shown in Table 2.

Table 2

EPDM COMPOSITION	CARBON BLACK	AMOUNT BY WEIGHT
RA1	A	150
RA2	A	200
RA3	A	250
RB1	B	150
RB2	B	200
RB3	B	250
RC1	C	150
RC2	C	200
RC3	C	250
RD1	D	150
RD2	D	200
RD3	D	250
RE1	E	150
RE2	E	200
RE3	E	250
RF1	F	150
RF2	F	200
RF3	F	250

TABLE 3 - EPDM COMPOUND FORMULATION

INGREDIENT	PART BY WEIGHT
EPDM	100
Carbon Black	150/200/250
Sunpar 2280 Oil	100
Zinc Oxide	5
Stearic Acid	1
TMTDS	2.7
Butyl Zimate	2.7
Methyl Zimate	2.7
Sulfur	0.5
Sulfasan R	1.7

EPDM -EXXON VISTALON® 5600, manufactured and sold by EXXON Corporation, Wilmington, Delaware;
 Sunpar 2280 - A trademarked oil manufactured and sold by Sun Oil Company;
 TMTDS - tetramethylthiuram disulfide;
 Butyl Zimate - a trademarked zinc

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dibutyldithiocarbamate manufactured and sold by
R. T. Vanderbilt Co.;
Methyl Zimate - a trademarked zinc
dimethyldithiocarbamate manufactured and sold by
R. T. Vanderbilt Co.;
Sulfasan R - a trademarked 4,4' - dithiodimorpholine,
manufactured and sold by Monsanto, Co., St. Louis,
Missouri.

The EPDM compounds were produced as follows. A Banbury BR mixer was started and maintained at a temperature of 45° C and a rotor speed of 77 RPM. EPDM was added to the mixer and mixed for approximately 30 seconds. The Sunpar 2280 oil, zinc oxide and stearic acid, were added to the EPDM and mixed for approximately 2 additional minutes. The carbon black was added to the mixture and the temperature of the mixing chamber was cooled and maintained at a temperature of below approximately 135° C. The carbon black - EPDM mixture was mixed for approximately 4 1/2 minutes and then the TMTDS, Butyl Zimate, Methyl Zimate, Sulfur and Sulfasan R products were added to the mixture. The resulting mixture was mixed for approximately 1 1/2 minutes while the temperature was maintained at below approximately 135° C. The batch compound was then discharged from the mixer and extruded on a Brabender extruder at 50 RPM and 100°C. through a die having an opening of 1 inch in width and 0.020 inch in height to produce the EPDM compositions RA1-RF3 in the form of profiles.

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Upon visual inspection, the finish of each of the EPDM profiles was as follows:

EPDM COMPOSITION	FINISH
RA1	Textured Matte
RA2	Textured Matte
RA3	Textured Matte
RB1	Textured Matte
RB2	Textured Matte
RB3	Textured Matte
RC1	Dull and Flat
RC2	Dull and Flat
RC3	Dull and Flat
RD1	Dull and Flat
RD2	Dull and Flat
RD3	Dull and Flat
RE1	High Gloss
RE2	High Gloss
RE3	High Gloss
RF1	High Gloss
RF2	High Gloss
RF3	High Gloss

These results show that the EPDM compositions RA1-RA3 and RB1-RB3 of the present invention have a textured matte finish whereas EPDM compositions RE1-RE3 and RF1-RF3 have a high gloss finish. Samples produced with the control carbon blacks, RC1-RC3 and RF1-RF3, have a dull and flat surface appearance which is neither highly glossy nor textured matte.

It should be clearly understood that the forms of the present invention herein described are illustrative only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

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CLAIMS

1. An EPDM composition comprising EPDM and a carbon black having a CTAB of about $10\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ to about $70\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ and a ratio of DBP/CTAB less than about 1.5, wherein the carbon black is present in an amount of 100 to about 300 parts by weight carbon black per 100 parts by weight EPDM.
2. The EPDM composition of Claim 1 wherein the carbon black is present in an amount of about 150 to about 250 parts by weight carbon black per 100 parts by weight EPDM.
3. The EPDM composition of Claim 1 wherein the carbon black has a CTAB of about $45\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ and a ratio of DBP/CTAB of about 1.0.
4. The EPDM composition of Claim 1 wherein the carbon black has a CTAB of about $67\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ and a ratio of DBP/CTAB of about 0.7.