CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A molding material consisting of saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellets, the pellets comprising a first saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet (A1) having approximately circular or elliptical cross section, and a second saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet (A2) having a cylindrical shape,

wherein the ratio (A1/A2) in weight of the first saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet (A1) to the second saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet (A2) is from 97/3 to 20/80,

wherein a conical pile of the pellets formed by pouring the pellets to a circular container having 9.5 cm in diameter (D) through a funnel having 8 mm in diameter (a) of its tip has an angle of repose of 32 to 36°, and

wherein the ratio (x/y) between diameter (x) and length (y) of the bottom or upper surface of the cylindrical pellet of the second saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet (A2) is from 0.9 to 1.2.

[Claim 2]

The molding material according to claim 1, wherein the first saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet has a cross-section of appropriate circle or ellipse having major axis of 3.0 to 6.0 mm and minor axis of 2.5 to 6.0 mm,

and the second saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet has 1.5 to 4.0 mm in diameter of its circular bottom face and 1.5 to 4.0 mm in height.

[Claim 3]

The molding material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ratio (A1/A2) in weight of the first saponified ethylene-vinyl esther-based copolymer pellet (A1) to the second saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet (A2) is from 97/3 to 55/45.

[Claim 4]

The molding material according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the first saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet has an ethylene unit content of 20 to 60 mol%, and the second saponified ethylene-vinyl ester-based copolymer pellet has an ethylene unit content of 20 to 60 mol%.