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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MIL-
LIKEN & COMPANY** [US/US]; 920 Milliken Road,
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **PATEL, Bhawan**
[GB/GB]; 27 Birkenhills Dr., Ladybridge, Bolton Lan-
cashire BL3 4TX (GB). **MORRIS, David L.** [GB/GB];
37 Tetlow Lane, Higher Broughton, Salford Greater
Manchester M7 4BU (GB).

(74) Agent: **WENTZ, Brenda D.**; MILLIKEN & COMPANY,
LEGAL DEPARTMENT (M-495), 920 Milliken Road,
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303 (US).

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(54) Title: ANTIMICROBIAL RESIN CURED RUBBER ARTICLES AND PRE-VULCANIZED COMPOSITIONS

(57) **Abstract:** This invention relates to certain non-silicone resin cured rubber articles that are made from at least a majority by weight of non-silicone vulcanized rubber that include silver-based compounds to provide highly desirable long-term antimicrobial characteristics within the cured rubber articles. Such articles are in either solid or blown (foam or sponge) state (or combinations of both in multilayered forms) and can be utilized in a variety of different applications. This invention encompasses the presence of non-sulfur-based curing systems and agents, such as resin curing, that permit vulcanization and do not irreversibly bind silver ions thereto, thereby resulting in long-term antimicrobial performance of the ultimate rubber article itself. This invention also encompasses certain non-silicone pre-vulcanized raw rubber formulations made from at least a majority by weight of non-silicone rubber that include silver-based components to provide highly desirable long-term antimicrobial characteristics within the ultimate resin cured rubber articles made therefrom.



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