

ABSTRACT

When it is intended to obtain foamed particles having a high expansion ratio upon the production of foamed particles of a polyolefin resin, there has been a problem that foamed particles uneven in cell diameter are produced. Any molded article produced with such foamed particles has involved a drawback that it is poor in dimensional stability, and its surface profile becomes uneven.

The invention relates to foamed particles comprising a polyolefin resin as a base resin, wherein the base resin contains a metal salt (excluding alkali metal salts) of boric acid in such a manner that the content of the metal salt of boric acid in the raw resin amounts to 50-50,000 ppm. Zinc borate, magnesium borate or the like is used as the metal salt of boric acid.

The foamed particles are obtained by using a polyolefin resin containing the metal salt of boric acid to prepare resin particles, dispersing the resin particles in a dispersion medium in a closed vessel and at the same time impregnating the resin particles with a foaming agent, holding the resin particles in a heated and pressurized atmosphere, and then releasing the resin particles together with the dispersion medium into an atmosphere of a pressure lower than the internal pressure of the vessel to expand the resin particles.