

MAGNESIUM CARBONATE

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001]

5 The present invention relates to a novel magnesium carbonate.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002]

10 Magnesium carbonate is widely used in various industrial fields, such as pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, foods and construction materials. Magnesium carbonate used as a filler has also been reported.

[0003]

15 Patent Literature 1 (JP 2005-272752 A), for example, discloses use of anhydrous magnesium carbonate with a BET specific surface area of 1 to 15 m²/g and an average particle size of 1 to 10 μ m as a filler for engineering plastics.

20 CITATION LIST

PATENT LITERATURE

[0004]

Patent Literature 1: JP 2005-272752 A (Claims and Examples)

25 SUMMARY OF INVENTION

TECHNICAL PROBLEM

[0005]

An object of the present invention is to provide a novel magnesium carbonate.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM

[0006]

Magnesium carbonate is known to be used as a filler for
5 engineering plastics and other products as disclosed in Patent
Literature 1.

[0007]

The inventor has conducted detailed studies on magnesium
carbonate as a filler. The inventor has found during research
10 that some types of magnesium carbonate reduce the transparency
of products and are inapplicable to applications that require
transparency. Even in cases where products are not required
to be transparent, some types of magnesium carbonate impair the
appearance of products or adversely affect the coloring
15 properties of products.

[0008]

Based on these findings, the inventor has carried out
intensive studies and found that, when magnesium carbonate is
used as a filler for products, specific physical properties of
20 magnesium carbonate influence the transparency of the products.
The inventor has conducted further studies and completed the
present invention.

[0009]

That is, the present invention provides a magnesium
25 carbonate having a zeta potential of 5 mV or more (for example,
6 to 25 mV). The magnesium carbonate may have a BET specific
surface area of 25 m²/g or more (for example, 28 m²/g or more).

The magnesium carbonate of the present invention may have
a mercury intrusion volume of about 1 to 8 cc/g and an average

particle size of about 1 to 20 μm .

The magnesium carbonate typically has a zeta potential of 7 to 20 mV, a BET specific surface area of 30 m^2/g or more (for example, 30 to 70 m^2/g), a mercury intrusion volume of 1.5 to 5 cc/g and an average particle size of 2 to 15 μm .

The magnesium carbonate of the present invention may have plate-like structure. In particular embodiments, the magnesium carbonate may be aggregates with a card-house structure [or in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure (or in the form of a card-house structure)].

[0010]

The present invention includes the following.

- (1) A magnesium carbonate having a zeta potential of 5 mV or more and a BET specific surface area of 25 m^2/g or more.
- 15 (2) The magnesium carbonate according to the above (1), wherein the zeta potential is 6 to 25 mV and the BET specific surface area is 28 m^2/g or more.
- (3) The magnesium carbonate according to the above (1) or (2), which has a mercury intrusion volume of 1 to 8 cc/g.
- 20 (4) The magnesium carbonate according to any one of the above (1) to (3), which has an average particle size of 1 to 20 μm .
- (5) The magnesium carbonate according to any one of the above (1) to (4), wherein the zeta potential is 7 to 20 mV, the BET specific surface area is 30 to 70 m^2/g , the mercury intrusion volume is 1.5 to 5 cc/g, and the average particle size is 2 to 25 15 μm .
- (6) The magnesium carbonate according to any one of the above (1) to (5), which is in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

(7) A magnesium carbonate used as a resin additive, the magnesium carbonate having a zeta potential of 5 mV or more.

(8) The magnesium carbonate according to the above (7), wherein the resin additive is a filler.

5 (9) The magnesium carbonate according to the above (7) or (8), which has a BET specific surface area of 10 m²/g or more.

(10) The magnesium carbonate according to any one of the above (7) to (9), which has a mercury intrusion volume of 1 to 8 cc/g.

(11) The magnesium carbonate according to any one of the above
10 (7) to (10), which has an average particle size of 1 to 20 μm.

(12) The magnesium carbonate according to any one of the above (7) to (11), wherein the zeta potential is 6 to 25 mV, the BET specific surface area is 15 to 70 m²/g, the mercury intrusion volume is 1.5 to 5 cc/g, and the average particle size is 2 to

15 15 μm.

(13) The magnesium carbonate according to any one of the above (7) to (12), which is in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

(14) A composition comprising a resin and the magnesium
20 carbonate according to any one of the above (1) to (13).

(15) The composition according to the above (14), wherein the resin comprises a vinyl chloride resin.

(16) The composition according to the above (14), wherein the resin comprises a rubber.

25 (17) The composition according to any one of the above (14) to (16), wherein the proportion of the magnesium carbonate is 0.1 part by mass or more based on 100 parts by mass of the resin.

ADVANTAGEOUS EFFECTS OF INVENTION

[0011]

The present invention provides a novel magnesium carbonate.

The magnesium carbonate can be used for various applications and is especially useful as a resin additive (including a
5 filler) etc.

Addition of the magnesium carbonate of the present invention to a resin does not impair but maintains high transparency of the resin (or only slightly reduces the transparency of the resin) in most cases. The magnesium carbonate of the present
10 invention maintains the transparency of products and at the same time functions as a filler, and is thus very useful and practical.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

15 [0012]

Magnesium carbonate

The magnesium carbonate of the present invention satisfies specific physical properties and specific characteristics. Typically, the magnesium carbonate of the present invention at
20 least satisfies a specific range of zeta potential. The magnesium carbonate may satisfy a specific range of zeta potential and a specific range of other physical properties (for example, at least one physical property selected from a specific surface area, a mercury intrusion volume and an average particle
25 size) (in particular, the magnesium carbonate may satisfy at least a specific range of specific surface area).

[0013]

The zeta potential of the magnesium carbonate can be selected from, for example, the range of 3 mV or more. The zeta

potential may be 5 mV or more (for example, 5.5 to 30 mV), preferably 6 mV or more (for example, 6 to 25 mV), more preferably 6.5 mV or more (for example, 6.5 to 22 mV), and particularly preferably 7 mV or more (for example, 7 to 20 mV). The zeta
5 potential may also be about 7.5 mV or more {for example, 8 mV or more (for example, 8.3 to 25 mV), 8.5 mV or more (for example, 8.8 to 20 mV), or 9 mV or more (for example, 9 to 18 mV)}.

[0014]

The upper limit of the range of the zeta potential of the
10 magnesium carbonate is not limited to a particular value, and may be, for example, at most 30 mV, 25 mV, 22 mV, 20 mV, 18 mV, 16 mV, 15 mV, 14 mV, or 13 mV. The upper and lower limits can be selected as appropriate to set the range of the zeta potential (for example, 8 to 18 mV; the same is applied hereinafter).

15 [0015]

The magnesium carbonate with the above range of zeta potential may have well-balanced properties, including the ability to maintain the transparency of products. If the zeta potential of a magnesium carbonate is excessively low, the
20 repulsive force between magnesium carbonate microparticles may be low, and the particles may aggregate and be poorly dispersed in a resin, which may result in reduced transparency of the resin. On the other hand, if the zeta potential of a magnesium carbonate is excessively high, the dispersibility of magnesium carbonate
25 microparticles in a resin may be excellent, but the microparticles may, for example, absorb much moisture, which may result in deterioration in the physical properties of other components (a resin etc.) besides the magnesium carbonate.

[0016]

The zeta potential may be determined by any method and can be determined by, for example, the method described later.

[0017]

The BET specific surface area of the magnesium carbonate
5 can be selected from, for example, the range of 1 m²/g or more
(for example, 5 m²/g or more, or 10 m²/g or more) and typically
selected from the range of 20 m²/g or more (for example, 22 m²/g
or more). The BET specific surface area may be 25 m²/g or more
(for example, 28 m²/g or more, or 29 m²/g or more), preferably
10 30 m²/g or more (for example, 32 m²/g or more), and more
preferably 35 m²/g or more (for example, 38 m²/g or more), and
can be 40 m²/g or more.

[0018]

The upper limit of the range of the BET specific surface
15 area of the magnesium carbonate is not limited to a particular
value, and may be, for example, at most 100 m²/g, 90 m²/g, 80
m²/g, 70 m²/g, 65 m²/g, 60 m²/g, 55 m²/g, 50 m²/g, or 45 m²/g.

[0019]

The magnesium carbonate with the above range of specific
20 surface area (especially when having the above zeta potential)
is advantageous in terms of maintaining the transparency of
products and improving the strength of products.

If the specific surface area of a magnesium carbonate is
excessively small or large, magnesium carbonate particles may
25 be too large or may aggregate (re-aggregate), which may result
in reduced transparency of products.

[0020]

The BET specific surface area may be determined by any method
and can be determined by, for example, the single point method

in accordance with JIS 8830 (Determination of the specific surface area of powders (solids) by gas adsorption-BET method).

[0021]

The mercury intrusion volume of the magnesium carbonate may
5 be 0.1 cc/g or more, or may be, for example, 0.5 cc/g or more
(for example, 0.8 to 20 cc/g), preferably 1 cc/g or more (for
example, 1.2 to 15 cc/g), and more preferably 1.5 cc/g or more
(for example, 1.6 to 10 cc/g). The mercury intrusion volume
may typically be 1 to 8 cc/g (for example, 1.2 to 7 cc/g, 1.3
10 to 6 cc/g, or 1.5 to 5 cc/g), or may be 4 cc/g or less (for example,
4 cc/g or less, 3.5 cc/g or less, 3 cc/g or less, or 2.5 cc/g
or less).

[0022]

The magnesium carbonate with the above mercury intrusion
15 volume (especially when having the above zeta potential and/or
the above specific surface area) has higher dispersibility in
a resin or other materials and is advantageous in terms of
maintaining the transparency of a resin or other products and
improving the strength of a resin or other products. Probably
20 due to its appropriate bulkiness, the magnesium carbonate is
advantageous in terms of handling, for example, when mixed with
a resin or other materials.

[0023]

The mercury intrusion volume may be determined by any method
25 and can be determined by, for example, the method described
later.

[0024]

The magnesium carbonate may be in the form of particles
(granules or a powder). The shape of particles is not limited

to a particular one, and the particles may be in a spherical shape (an approximately spherical shape), a plate shape, etc. The particles may be primary particles or secondary particles (or aggregates). The magnesium carbonate particles may be
5 plate-shaped particles, and may preferably be aggregates of plate-shaped particles (card-house aggregates, a card-house structure, or aggregates with a card-house structure).

[0025]

The average particle size (or the secondary particle size)
10 of the particulate magnesium carbonate (magnesium carbonate particles) may be selected from the range of about 100 μm or less (for example, 70 μm or less). The average particle size (or the secondary particle size) may be 50 μm or less (for example, 40 μm or less), preferably 30 μm or less (for example, 25 μm
15 or less), and more preferably 20 μm or less (for example, 18 μm or less). The average particle size (or the secondary particle size) may typically be 1 to 20 μm (for example, 1.5 to 18 μm , 2 to 15 μm , 3 to 12 μm , 3.5 to 10 μm , 4 to 9 μm , or 4.5 to 8 μm), or may be 12 μm or less (for example, 10 μm or
20 less, or 8 μm or less).

[0026]

The magnesium carbonate with the above average particle size (especially when having the above zeta potential and other properties) is advantageous in terms of maintaining the
25 transparency of products.

[0027]

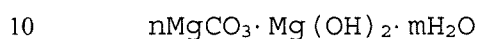
The average particle size may be determined by any method and can be determined by, for example, the method described later.

[0028]

The magnesium carbonate of the present invention may be any type that contains MgCO_3 , but may typically be a basic magnesium carbonate. The magnesium carbonate (basic magnesium carbonate) may be a hydrate or a hydrated compound (for example, a dihydrate, a trihydrate, a pentahydrate, etc.).

[0029]

The basic magnesium carbonate may be a hydromagnesite including those represented by the following formula:



[wherein m and n are an integer (for example, m and n each represent 3 to 8, or $m = n = 4$, or $n = 4$ and $m = 5$, or the like)].

A hydromagnesite with a large number of carbonic acid groups has a low zeta potential, whereas a hydromagnesite having a large number of hydroxy groups tends to be positively charged.

[0030]

The apparent specific gravity of the magnesium carbonate may be, for example, 0.10 to 0.50, preferably 0.15 to 0.45, and more preferably about 0.20 to 0.40.

20 [0031]

The magnesium carbonate may contain an additional element (or an additional compound) as long as it contains MgCO_3 (and $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ and H_2O), or may contain no additional elements. Examples of the additional element include, but are not limited to, non-metallic elements [for example, C (carbon), S (sulfur), and halogens (for example, Cl (chlorine) etc.) etc.] and metallic elements or metalloid elements [for example, main group metal elements (for example, alkali or alkaline earth metals such as Na (sodium) and Ca (calcium); Group 13 elements

in the periodic table, such as B (boron) and Al (aluminum); Si (silicon); etc.), transition metal elements (for example, Fe (iron), Zn (zinc), etc.), etc.]. A single type of element may be contained in the magnesium carbonate, or a combination of
5 two or more elements may be contained in the magnesium carbonate.

[0032]

When the magnesium carbonate contains S, the amount (proportion) of S may be, for example, 0.6% by mass or less (for
10 example, 0.01 to 0.6% by mass), preferably 0.5% by mass or less (for example, 0.01 to 0.3% by mass), and more preferably 0.2% by mass or less (for example, 0.01 to 0.2% by mass).

[0033]

When the magnesium carbonate contains Na, the amount
15 (proportion) of Na may be, for example, 1.0% by mass or less (for example, 0.01 to 1% by mass), preferably 0.5% by mass or less (for example, 0.01 to 0.5% by mass), and more preferably 0.3% by mass or less (for example, 0.01 to 0.3% by mass).

[0034]

20 When the magnesium carbonate contains Ca, the amount (proportion) of Ca may be, for example, 1.0% by mass or less (for example, 0.01 to 1.0% by mass), preferably 0.7% by mass or less (for example, 0.01 to 0.7% by mass), and more preferably 0.5% by mass or less (for example, 0.01 to 0.5% by mass).

25 [0035]

The magnesium carbonate may be produced by any method, and may be produced by, for example, blowing carbon dioxide gas into a magnesium hydroxide slurry or a magnesium oxide slurry.

[0036]

The slurry can be prepared by, for example, dispersing powdery magnesium hydroxide or magnesium oxide in water.

[0037]

The completion of the reaction (formation of magnesium carbonate) may be confirmed by, for example, determining
5 whether the reaction solution reaches a predetermined pH (for example, about 10 or less). The pH may be determined with an indicator (a phenolphthalein solution etc.).

[0038]

10 The produced magnesium carbonate can be separated (purified) by the conventional method. For example, after completion of the reaction, the magnesium carbonate produced by blowing of carbon dioxide gas may be purified by filtering, dehydrating and drying the slurry.

15 [0039]

The resulting magnesium carbonate may be subjected to pulverization process. The type and degree of pulverization can be selected as appropriate depending on the desired average particle size etc.

20 [0040]

The zeta potential of the magnesium carbonate may be adjusted by adjusting the drying temperature etc. For example, magnesium carbonate dried at a higher temperature tends to have a higher zeta potential.

25 The specific surface area and the average particle size may be adjusted by, for example, adjusting the curing degree of the magnesium carbonate slurry, etc. For example, magnesium carbonate cured at a higher temperature tends to have a smaller specific surface area and a smaller average particle size.

The mercury intrusion volume may be adjusted by adjusting the pressure for dehydration (for example, pressing pressure of a filter press). Magnesium carbonate dehydrated at a lower pressure tends to have a higher mercury intrusion volume.

5 The average particle size may be adjusted by adjusting the degree of pulverization etc.

[0041]

Use of magnesium carbonate

10 The magnesium carbonate of the present invention may be used for any purpose and various applications (including, for example, as an ingredient or a component of paints, fertilizers, foods, cosmetics, ceramics, pharmaceutical products, etc.).

[0042]

15 The magnesium carbonate of the present invention may be suitably used as an additive for resins. That is, the magnesium carbonate of the present invention may be a component of a composition (resin composition).

[0043]

20 The magnesium carbonate when used as a resin additive [for example, a filler (a bulking agent, a reinforcement, a reinforcing agent, or an enhancing agent)] can enhance (improve) or impart various physical properties/functions [for example, strength, rigidity (modulus) and/or heat resistance]. The magnesium carbonate can be used to increase the volume of
25 a resin. The magnesium carbonate can also reduce the cost when mixed with some types of resins.

[0044]

Accordingly, the present invention also includes a composition comprising a resin and the magnesium carbonate.

[0045]

The resin is not limited to particular one, and may be a thermoplastic resin or a curable resin (for example, a thermosetting or photocurable resin), or may be an elastomer
5 (a thermoplastic elastomer, a rubber, etc.).

[0046]

The resin may be a single type or a combination of two or more types.

[0047]

10 Specific examples of the resin (including a rubber) include olefin resins (for example, polyethylene, polypropylene, an ethylene-propylene copolymer, etc.), halogen-containing resins {for example, chlorine-containing resins [such as vinyl chloride resins (for example, polyvinyl chloride, a vinyl
15 chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer, an ethylene-vinyl chloride copolymer, an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, etc.), vinylidene chloride resins (polyvinylidene chloride etc.) etc.] etc.}, (meth)acrylic resins (for example, polymethyl methacrylate, a methyl methacrylate-styrene copolymer, etc.),
20 styrene resins [for example, polystyrene, a styrene copolymer, styrene-containing resins (an acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer, a styrene-methyl methacrylate copolymer, an ABS resin, etc.) etc.], polyester resins [for example, polyalkylene arylate resins such as polyalkylene terephthalates (polyethylene
25 terephthalate, polypropylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polycyclohexanedimethylene terephthalate, etc.) and polyethylene naphthalate; and polyarylate resins], polycarbonate resins (for example, bisphenol A polycarbonate), polythiocarbonate resins, polyacetal resins, polyamide resins

(for example, polyamide 6 and polyamide 66), polyphenylene ether resins, polyetherketone resins, polysulfone resins, polyphenylene sulfide resins, polyimide resins, thermoplastic elastomers (olefin elastomers, styrene elastomers, polyester elastomers, polyamide elastomers, polyurethane elastomers, etc.), epoxy resins, phenol resins, urea resins, melamine resins, furan resins, unsaturated polyester resins, diallyl phthalate resins, vinyl ester resins, silicone resins, and rubbers.

10 [0048]

Examples of the rubber include diene rubbers {for example, natural rubber (NR), isoprene rubber (IR), butyl rubber (IIR), butadiene rubber (BR), chloroprene rubber (CR), nitrile-containing rubbers [such as nitrile rubber (NBR), nitrile chloroprene rubber (NCR), and nitrile isoprene rubber (NIR)], styrene-containing rubbers [such as styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), styrene chloroprene rubber (SCR), and styrene isoprene rubber (SIR)], hydrogenated rubbers [such as hydrogenated nitrile rubber (HNBR)], etc.}, olefin rubbers [for example, ethylene-propylene rubber (EPM), ethylene propylene diene rubber (EPDM), etc.], acrylic rubbers (ethylene acrylic rubber etc.), fluororubbers, urethane rubbers, and acid-modified rubbers (for example, carboxylated nitrile rubber (X-NBR), carboxylated styrene-butadiene rubber (X-SBR), carboxylated ethylene-propylene rubber (X-EP(D)M), etc.).

[0049]

Preferred are olefin resins, halogen-containing resins, and rubbers, and particularly preferred are vinyl chloride resins and rubbers.

[0050]

The magnesium carbonate, when added to such a resin (rubber), generally only slightly reduces the transparency of the resin (rubber). Therefore, the magnesium carbonate can be used for applications that require transparency of products. The magnesium carbonate only slightly influences the appearance or coloring of products, and can therefore be used for applications that require good appearance or design.

[0051]

When the magnesium carbonate is added to (mixed with) a resin, the proportion of the magnesium carbonate can be selected as appropriate depending on, for example, the intended function or the degree of the function. The proportion of the magnesium carbonate may be, but is not limited to, for example, 0.1 parts by mass or more (for example, 0.3 to 1000 parts by mass), preferably 0.5 parts by mass or more (for example, 1 to 500 parts by mass), and more preferably 2 parts by mass or more (for example, about 3 to 300 parts by mass) based on 100 parts by mass of the resin.

[0052]

In particular when the magnesium carbonate is added to a resin such as an olefin resin and a halogen-containing resin (including a vinyl chloride resin), the proportion of the magnesium carbonate may be, for example, 0.1 to 100 parts by mass, preferably 0.5 to 80 parts by mass, more preferably 1 to 50 parts by mass (for example, 2 to 30 parts by mass), and particularly preferably 3 to 25 parts by mass (for example, 3.5 to 20 parts by mass, 4 to 15 parts by mass, or 5 to 10 parts by mass), or may be 4 parts by mass or more (for example, 5 parts

by mass or more, 6 parts by mass or more, 7 parts by mass or more, or 8 parts by mass or more) based on 100 parts by mass of the resin (an olefin resin, a halogen-containing resin, etc.).

5 [0053]

In particular when the magnesium carbonate is added to a rubber, the proportion of the magnesium carbonate may be, for example, 1 part by mass or more (for example, 1 to 1000 parts by mass), preferably 5 parts by mass or more (for example, 6
10 to 500 parts by mass), more preferably 8 parts by mass or more (for example, 10 to 300 parts by mass), and particularly preferably 15 parts by mass or more (for example, 20 to 200 parts by mass), or may be 30 parts by mass or more (for example, 40 parts by mass or more, 50 parts by mass or more, 60 parts by
15 mass or more, or 80 parts by mass or more) based on 100 parts by mass of the resin (rubber).

[0054]

The composition of the present invention may contain a common additive depending on the type of resin (rubber), the
20 application of the composition, etc. Examples of the common additive include plasticizers, fire retardants, softeners, stabilizers, antistatic agents, aging inhibitors, antioxidants, ultraviolet absorbers, tackifiers, lubricants, coloring agents, foaming agents, dispersants, and fillers
25 (other fillers besides the magnesium carbonate). These additives may be used alone or in combination of two or more thereof.

[0055]

The composition can be produced by blending ingredients.

The blending method can be selected as appropriate depending on the type of resin and is not limited to particular one.

EXAMPLES

5 [0056]

The present invention will be described below in further detail with reference to Examples, but the present invention is not limited thereto. Many modifications can be made by a person skilled in the art within the spirit of the invention.

10 [0057]

Various physical properties and characteristics were determined and evaluated as follows.

[0058]

Zeta potential: To 10 g of magnesium carbonate in a beaker,
15 pure water was added to a total volume of 200 mL. The mixture was stirred with a stirring rod about 20 times to give a homogeneous liquid. The liquid was continuously stirred while maintaining the temperature at 25°C to give a slurry liquid. Slurry concentration: 0.05 g/cm³. Measurement method: colloid
20 vibration current method. Measurement device: DT-1200 (Dispersion Technology Inc.). Measurement was performed three times, and the mean value was calculated and reported as the zeta potential value.

[0059]

25 BET specific surface area: The BET specific surface area was determined by the single point method in accordance with JIS 8830 (Determination of the specific surface area of powders (solids) by gas adsorption-BET method).

[0060]

Mercury intrusion volume: PoreMaster-60 manufactured by Quantachrome was used as a measurement device.

A mass of 0.1 g of magnesium carbonate was weighed and filled into a 0.5-mL cell stem.

5 Measurement was performed first in the low-pressure chamber. Then the sample was taken out, and measurement was performed in the high-pressure chamber. The measurement results were processed by the software attached to the measurement device to calculate the volume of mercury intrusion.

10 Range of measurement: 1069 to 0.0036 μm diameter
Contact angle of mercury: 140°
Surface tension of mercury: 480 dynes/cm
Density of mercury: 13.5 g/cc
Temperature: 20°C

15

Measuring conditions under high pressure

Penetrometer Constant: 1520 [mV/cc]
Auto-Oil Fill Time: 5 [sec]
Run Mode: fixed Speed

20 Motor Speed: 4

Measuring conditions under low pressure

Penetrometer Constant: 1760 [mV/cc]
Evacuation Rate: 1
25 Fine Evac. Until: 500.0000 [mmHg]
Coarse Evac. Until: 5.0000 [min.]

[0061]

Average particle size: 0.05 g of a sample powder was added to 50 mL of ethanol, dispersed by sonication for 3 minutes, and

subjected to measurement by the laser diffraction method
(apparatus: Microtrac HRA, NIKKISO CO., LTD.).

[0062]

L* value (lightness): A sheet prepared as described later
5 was placed on a black standard plate (with an L* value of 25.9
as measured alone in the SCI mode). The sheet and the black
standard plate were securely held against the aperture of a
spectrophotometer so that the light from the spectrophotometer
did not leak. The L* value of the sheet was measured in the
10 SCI mode. During the measurement, the sheet was positioned to
face the aperture.

The spectrophotometer "CM-3610d" manufactured by KONICA
MINOLTA, INC. was used for the measurement.

Since the sheet was placed on the black standard plate in
15 this measurement, the sensor detected the black color that
transmitted through the sheet. A greater transparency of the
sheet is indicated by a lower L* value.

[0063]

100% modulus: A test specimen of the JIS No. 3 dumbbell shape
20 was used for the measurement. Tensile test was performed in
accordance with JIS K 7161. The tensile speed was 200 mm/min.
The tensile stress at 100% elongation was reported as 100%
modulus.

[0064]

25 Appearance of sheet: The appearance of a sheet was visually
inspected based on the following criteria.

Excellent: no mottled pattern is observed.

Good: a slightly mottled pattern is observed.

Poor: a highly mottled pattern is observed.

[0065]

Transparency of sheet: The transparency of a sheet was visually inspected based on the following criteria.

Excellent: letters on paper under the sheet are clearly
5 readable.

Good: letters on paper under the sheet are readable.

Poor: no letters on paper under the sheet are readable.

[0066]

Hardness: Three sheets of 2 mm thickness each were stacked
10 on top of each other, and the hardness of the stacked sheets was determined with a durometer (type A) in accordance with JIS K 6253.

[0067]

Example 1

15 A magnesium oxide powder was added to pure water to a MgO concentration of 40 g/L to give 3 L of a slurry. The slurry was warmed to 60°C, and carbon dioxide gas was blown into the stirred slurry at a flow rate of 2 L/min to allow a reaction to occur. The reaction was monitored to determine the end point.
20 The end point was determined by adding phenolphthalein to the slurry. The end point was when the color of the slurry was changed from pink to colorless. After the reaction reached the end point, the blowing of the gas was stopped to give a basic magnesium carbonate slurry. The basic magnesium carbonate
25 slurry was warmed to a liquid temperature of 80°C and stirred at the temperature for 6 hours.

The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was dehydrated with a filter press at 2.0 MPa for 3 minutes, placed in a dryer set at 135°C and dried for 12 hours. The dried product was

pulverized with Bantam Mill (type AP-B) manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Corporation to give a basic magnesium carbonate powder.

The magnesium carbonate had a zeta potential of 12.4 mV and a BET specific surface area of 42 m²/g. The magnesium carbonate had a mercury intrusion volume of 2.3 cc/g and an average particle size of 6.7 μm. The magnesium carbonate powder was in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

The magnesium carbonate was used to produce a sheet (thickness: 1 mm). The sheet contained 3.5 parts by mass of the magnesium carbonate, 62.5 parts by mass of polyvinyl chloride (ZEST 1000, ShinDai-ichi Vinyl Corporation), 37.5 parts by mass of dioctyl phthalate, and 1.0 part by mass of lead stearate.

The sheet was prepared by the following procedure. All the ingredients were kneaded at 160°C at 30 rpm for 150 seconds with Labo Plastomill (Toyo Seiki Seisaku-sho, Ltd.), and the kneaded product was taken out and press molded at 170°C for 1 minute.

The sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0068]

Example 2

A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 1 except that the amount of the magnesium carbonate was changed from 3.5 parts by mass to 4.7 parts by mass, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0069]

Example 3

A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 1 except that the amount of the magnesium carbonate was changed from 3.5

parts by mass to 9.3 parts by mass, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0070]

Example 4

5 A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 1 except that the amount of the magnesium carbonate was changed from 3.5 parts by mass to 14.0 parts by mass, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0071]

10 Example 5

 A volume of 3 L of a magnesium hydroxide slurry (water slurry) containing 40 g/L MgO was warmed to 60°C, and carbon dioxide gas was blown into the stirred slurry at a flow rate of 2 L/min to allow a reaction to occur. The reaction was
15 monitored to determine the end point. The end point was determined by adding phenolphthalein to the slurry. The end point was when the color of the slurry was changed from pink to colorless. After the reaction reached the end point, the blowing of the gas was stopped to give a basic magnesium
20 carbonate slurry. The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was warmed to a liquid temperature of 70°C and stirred at the temperature for 6 hours.

 The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was dehydrated with a filter press at 2.5 MPa for 3 minutes, placed in a dryer set
25 at 120°C and dried for 12 hours. The dried product was pulverized with Bantam Mill (type AP-B) manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Corporation to give a basic magnesium carbonate powder.

 The magnesium carbonate had a zeta potential of 9.2 mV and

a BET specific surface area of 44 m²/g. The magnesium carbonate had a mercury intrusion volume of 1.9 cc/g and an average particle size of 7.4 μm. The magnesium carbonate powder was in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

5 The magnesium carbonate was used to produce a sheet (thickness: 1 mm) in the same manner as in Example 1. The sheet contained 4.7 parts by mass of the magnesium carbonate, 62.5 parts by mass of polyvinyl chloride (ZEST 1000, ShinDai-ichi Vinyl Corporation), 37.5 parts by mass of dioctyl phthalate,
10 and 1.0 part by mass of lead stearate.

The sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0072]

Example 6

A volume of 3 L of a magnesium hydroxide slurry (water
15 slurry) containing 40 g/L MgO was warmed to 55°C, and carbon dioxide gas was blown into the stirred slurry at a flow rate of 2 L/min to allow a reaction to occur. The reaction was monitored to determine the end point. The end point was determined by adding phenolphthalein to the slurry. The end
20 point was when the color of the slurry was changed from pink to colorless. After the reaction reached the end point, the blowing of the gas was stopped to give a basic magnesium carbonate slurry.

The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was warmed to a liquid
25 temperature of 70°C and stirred at the temperature for 6 hours. The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was dehydrated with a filter press at 2.0 MPa for 3 minutes, placed in a dryer set at 120°C and dried for 12 hours. The dried product was pulverized with Bantam Mill (type AP-B) manufactured by

Hosokawa Micron Corporation to give a basic magnesium carbonate powder.

The magnesium carbonate had a zeta potential of 11.2 mV and a BET specific surface area of 57 m²/g. The magnesium carbonate
5 had a mercury intrusion volume of 3.0 cc/g and an average particle size of 6.8 μm. The magnesium carbonate powder was in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

The magnesium carbonate was used to produce a sheet (thickness: 1 mm) in the same manner as in Example 1. The sheet
10 contained 4.7 parts by mass of the magnesium carbonate, 62.5 parts by mass of polyvinyl chloride (ZEST 1000, ShinDai-ichi Vinyl Corporation), 37.5 parts by mass of dioctyl phthalate, and 1.0 part by mass of lead stearate.

The sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.
15 [0073]

Example 7

A volume of 3 L of a magnesium hydroxide slurry (water slurry) containing 30 g/L MgO was warmed to 65°C, and carbon dioxide gas was blown into the stirred slurry at a flow rate
20 of 2 L/min to allow a reaction to occur. The reaction was monitored to determine the end point. The end point was determined by adding phenolphthalein to the slurry. The end point was when the color of the slurry was changed from pink to colorless. After the reaction reached the end point, the
25 blowing of the gas was stopped to give a basic magnesium carbonate slurry.

The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was warmed to a liquid temperature of 70°C and stirred at the temperature for 9 hours. The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was dehydrated with a

filter press at 2.5 MPa for 3 minutes, placed in a dryer set at 135°C and dried for 12 hours. The dried product was pulverized with Bantam Mill (type AP-B) manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Corporation to give a basic magnesium carbonate powder.

The magnesium carbonate had a zeta potential of 18.7 mV and a BET specific surface area of 41 m²/g. The magnesium carbonate had a mercury intrusion volume of 2.1 cc/g and an average particle size of 6.2 μm. The magnesium carbonate powder was in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

The magnesium carbonate was used to produce a sheet (thickness: 1 mm) in the same manner as in Example 1. The sheet contained 4.7 parts by mass of the magnesium carbonate, 62.5 parts by mass of polyvinyl chloride (ZEST 1000, ShinDai-ichi Vinyl Corporation), 37.5 parts by mass of dioctyl phthalate, and 1.0 part by mass of lead stearate.

The sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0074]

Example 8

A magnesium oxide powder was added to pure water to a MgO concentration of 30 g/L to give 3 L of a slurry. The slurry was warmed to 60°C, and carbon dioxide gas was blown into the stirred slurry at a flow rate of 2 L/min to allow a reaction to occur. The reaction was monitored to determine the end point. The end point was determined by adding phenolphthalein to the slurry. The end point was when the color of the slurry was changed from pink to colorless. After the reaction reached the end point, the blowing of the gas was stopped to give a basic magnesium carbonate slurry. The basic magnesium carbonate

slurry was warmed to a liquid temperature of 75°C and stirred at the temperature for 6 hours.

The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was dehydrated with a filter press at 1.5 MPa for 3 minutes, placed in a dryer set at 120°C and dried for 12 hours. The dried product was pulverized with Bantam Mill (type AP-B) manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Corporation to give a basic magnesium carbonate powder.

The magnesium carbonate had a zeta potential of 7.2 mV and a BET specific surface area of 48 m²/g. The magnesium carbonate had a mercury intrusion volume of 3.0 cc/g and an average particle size of 9.9 μm. The magnesium carbonate powder was in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

The magnesium carbonate was used to produce a sheet (thickness: 1 mm). The sheet contained 4.7 parts by mass of the magnesium carbonate, 62.5 parts by mass of polyvinyl chloride (ZEST 1000, ShinDai-ichi Vinyl Corporation), 37.5 parts by mass of dioctyl phthalate, and 1.0 part by mass of lead stearate.

The sheet was prepared by the following procedure. All the ingredients were kneaded at 160°C at 30 rpm for 150 seconds with Labo Plastomill (Toyo Seiki Seisaku-sho, Ltd.), and the kneaded product was taken out and press molded at 170°C for 1 minute.

The sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0075]

Example 9

A volume of 3 L of a magnesium hydroxide slurry (water slurry) containing 25 g/L MgO was warmed to 70°C, and carbon dioxide gas was blown into the stirred slurry at a flow rate

of 3 L/min to allow a reaction to occur. The reaction was monitored to determine the end point. The end point was determined by adding phenolphthalein to the slurry. The end point was when the color of the slurry was changed from pink to colorless. After the reaction reached the end point, the blowing of the gas was stopped to give a basic magnesium carbonate slurry. The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was warmed to a liquid temperature of 80°C and stirred at the temperature for 6 hours.

10 The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was dehydrated with a filter press at 2.5 MPa for 3 minutes, placed in a dryer set at 110°C and dried for 12 hours. The dried product was pulverized with Bantam Mill (type AP-B) manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Corporation to give a basic magnesium carbonate powder.

The magnesium carbonate had a zeta potential of 10.8 mV and a BET specific surface area of 35 m²/g. The magnesium carbonate had a mercury intrusion volume of 1.9 cc/g and an average particle size of 8.2 μm. The magnesium carbonate powder was in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

The magnesium carbonate was used to produce a sheet (thickness: 1 mm) in the same manner as in Example 1. The sheet contained 4.7 parts by mass of the magnesium carbonate, 62.5 parts by mass of polyvinyl chloride (ZEST 1000, ShinDai-ichi Vinyl Corporation), 37.5 parts by mass of dioctyl phthalate, and 1.0 part by mass of lead stearate.

The sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0076]

Example 10

A volume of 3 L of a magnesium hydroxide slurry (water slurry) containing 40 g/L MgO was warmed to 55°C, and carbon dioxide gas was blown into the stirred slurry at a flow rate of 3 L/min to allow a reaction to occur. The reaction was monitored to determine the end point. The end point was determined by adding phenolphthalein to the slurry. The end point was when the color of the slurry was changed from pink to colorless. After the reaction reached the end point, the blowing of the gas was stopped to give a basic magnesium carbonate slurry. The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was warmed to a liquid temperature of 75°C and stirred at the temperature for 6 hours.

The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was dehydrated with a filter press at 2.5 MPa for 3 minutes, placed in a dryer set at 120°C and dried for 24 hours. The dried product was pulverized with Bantam Mill (type AP-B) manufactured by Hosokawa Micron Corporation to give a basic magnesium carbonate powder.

The magnesium carbonate had a zeta potential of 11.9 mV and a BET specific surface area of 59 m²/g. The magnesium carbonate had a mercury intrusion volume of 2.2 cc/g and an average particle size of 3.8 μm. The magnesium carbonate powder was in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

The magnesium carbonate was used to produce a sheet (thickness: 1 mm) in the same manner as in Example 1. The sheet contained 4.7 parts by mass of the magnesium carbonate, 62.5 parts by mass of polyvinyl chloride (ZEST 1000, ShinDai-ichi Vinyl Corporation), 37.5 parts by mass of dioctyl phthalate, and 1.0 part by mass of lead stearate.

The sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.
[0077]

Reference Example 1

A volume of 3 L of a magnesium hydroxide slurry (water
5 slurry) containing 40 g/L MgO was warmed to a liquid temperature
of 65°C, and carbon dioxide gas was blown into the slurry at
a flow rate of 2 L/min to allow a reaction to occur. The reaction
was monitored to determine the end point. The end point was
determined by adding phenolphthalein to the slurry. The end
10 point was when the color of the slurry was changed from pink
to colorless. After the reaction reached the end point, the
blowing of the gas was stopped to give a basic magnesium
carbonate slurry.

The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was warmed to a liquid
15 temperature of 95°C and stirred at the temperature for 6 hours.
The basic magnesium carbonate slurry was dehydrated with a
filter press at 1.5 MPa for 3 minutes, placed in a dryer set
at 105°C and dried for 12 hours. The dried product was
pulverized with Bantam Mill (type AP-B) manufactured by
20 Hosokawa Micron Corporation to give a basic magnesium carbonate
powder.

The magnesium carbonate had a zeta potential of 6.8 mV and
a BET specific surface area of 16 m²/g. The magnesium carbonate
had a mercury intrusion volume of 4.9 cc/g and an average
25 particle size of 2.7 μm. The magnesium carbonate powder was
in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.

The magnesium carbonate was used to produce a sheet
(thickness: 1 mm) in the same manner as in Example 1. The sheet
contained 4.7 parts by mass of the magnesium carbonate, 62.5

parts by mass of polyvinyl chloride (ZEST 1000, ShinDai-ichi Vinyl Corporation), 37.5 parts by mass of dioctyl phthalate, and 1.0 part by mass of lead stearate.

The sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

5 [0078]

Comparative Example 1

A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 1 except that no magnesium carbonate was used, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

10 [0079]

The results are summarized in the table below.

[0080]

Table 1

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5	Example 6	Example 7	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10	Reference Example 1	Comparative Example 1
	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5	Example 6	Example 7	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10	Reference Example 1	Comparative Example 1
Magnesium carbonate	Zeta potential (mV)	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4	11.2	18.7	7.2	10.8	11.9	6.8	-
	BET specific surface area (m ² /g)	42	42	42	42	57	41	48	35	59	16	-
	Amount added (parts by mass)	3.5	4.7	9.3	14.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	0
Evaluations	Appearance of sheet	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent
	L* value	43.8	44.0	51.1	58.2	48.0	51.2	48.2	49.1	50.4	55.2	43.5
	Modulus (kgf/cm ²)	0.54	0.55	0.58	0.59	0.56	0.55	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.56	0.52

[0081]

As is apparent from the results in the table, addition of the magnesium carbonates of Examples increases strength and rigidity of the sheets and maintains high transparency of the sheets.

[0082]

Example 11

The magnesium carbonate prepared in Example 1 was used to produce a sheet (thickness: 2 mm) as described below. The sheet contained 120.0 parts by mass of the magnesium carbonate, 100 parts by mass of natural rubber (pale crepe), 1.0 part by mass of stearic acid, 2.0 parts by mass of sulfur, 1.5 parts by mass of zinc carbonate, and 1.2 parts by mass of a vulcanization accelerator (containing 0.2 parts by weight of Nocceler TS, 0.5 parts by weight of Nocceler H, and 0.5 parts by weight of Nocceler P, each manufactured by Ouchi Shinko Chemical Industrial Co., Ltd.).

The natural rubber was masticated on rollers at a rotation speed of 10 rpm at 30°C for 5 minutes. Stearic acid, the magnesium carbonate, sulfur and zinc carbonate were added, and the mixture was kneaded for 30 minutes. The vulcanization accelerator was added, the mixture was kneaded, and the roller clearance was varied to give a rubber composition of about 3 mm thickness. The rubber composition was allowed to stand for 12 hours and then placed in a cool and dark place for 18 hours. The rubber composition was press molded at 155°C for 10 minutes to give a sheet of 2 mm thickness.

The sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0083]

Example 12

A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 11 except that the magnesium carbonate of Example 5 was used in place of the magnesium carbonate of Example 1, and the sheet
5 was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0084]

Example 13

A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 11 except that the magnesium carbonate of Example 6 was used in
10 place of the magnesium carbonate of Example 1, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0085]

Example 14

A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 11
15 except that the magnesium carbonate of Example 7 was used in place of the magnesium carbonate of Example 1, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0086]

Example 15

20 A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 11 except that the magnesium carbonate of Example 8 was used in place of the magnesium carbonate of Example 1, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0087]

25 Example 16

A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 11 except that the magnesium carbonate of Example 9 was used in place of the magnesium carbonate of Example 1, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0088]

Example 17

A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 11 except that the magnesium carbonate of Example 10 was used in
5 place of the magnesium carbonate of Example 1, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0089]

Reference Example 2

A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 11
10 except that the magnesium carbonate of Reference Example 1 was used in place of the magnesium carbonate of Example 1, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0090]

Comparative Example 2

15 A sheet was produced in the same manner as in Example 11 except that no magnesium carbonate was used, and the sheet was subjected to the measurements and evaluations.

[0091]

The results are summarized in the table below.

[0092]

Table 2

	Example 11	Example 12	Example 13	Example 14	Example 15	Example 16	Example 17	Reference Example 2	Comparative Example 2
Magnesium carbonate	12.4	9.2	11.2	18.7	7.2	10.8	11.9	6.8	-
	42	44	57	41	48	35	59	16	-
	Zeta potential (mV)								
Evaluations	BET specific surface area (m ² /g)								
	Transparency of sheet	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent
	Hardness	57	58	58	58	57	58	58	37

[0093]

As is apparent from the results in the table, addition of the magnesium carbonates of Examples to a rubber increases strength and rigidity of the sheets and maintains high transparency of the sheets, which results were similar to those
5 observed above. The results indicate that the magnesium carbonates of Examples can be used to increase strength and rigidity of various types of resins while maintaining high transparency of the resins.

10

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0094]

The present invention provides a novel magnesium carbonate. The magnesium carbonate is suitable as, for example, a resin
15 additive [including a filler (a bulking agent or a reinforcement)] etc.

CLAIMS

1. A magnesium carbonate having a zeta potential of 5 mV or more and a BET specific surface area of 25 m²/g or more.

5

2. The magnesium carbonate according to claim 1, wherein the zeta potential is 6 to 25 mV and the BET specific surface area is 28 m²/g or more.

10 3. The magnesium carbonate according to claim 1 or 2, which has a mercury intrusion volume of 1 to 8 cc/g.

4. The magnesium carbonate according to any one of claims 1 to 3, which has an average particle size of 1 to 20 μm.

15

5. The magnesium carbonate according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the zeta potential is 7 to 20 mV, the BET specific surface area is 30 to 70 m²/g, the mercury intrusion volume is 1.5 to 5 cc/g, and the average particle size is 2 to 15 μm.

20

6. The magnesium carbonate according to any one of claims 1 to 5, which is in the form of aggregates with a card-house structure.