

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An expandable styrene resin bead containing voids therein, wherein the number of the voids present in the area from the surface of the bead to a depth of 0.1 mm along the radial direction is not more than 100 per mm² as counted on a cross section passing through approximately the center of the bead. A process for producing expandable styrene resin beads by suspension polymerization is also disclosed in which a styrene monomer is suspended in an aqueous medium in the presence of an initiator and a suspending agent, and a blowing agent is incorporated into polymer beads produced, wherein an alkali metal salt or ammonium salt of persulfuric acid is added to the reaction system in an amount of 0.5 to 30 ppm based on the aqueous medium while the degree of conversion of said monomer is in the range of from 0 to 30%, and an electrolyte is added to the reaction system in a concentration of 0.02 to 5.0 mol/l based on the aqueous medium when the degree of conversion is 30% or higher. The expandable styrene resin bead does not require aging and, when pre-expanded, show little variation in the state of the cells, i.e., expandable styrene resin beads which hardly undergo influences of storage conditions.

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