

Abstract

**POLYMERISATION OF CYCLOSILOXANES
IN THE PRESENCE OF FILLERS**

A process for which making silicone-filler mixtures which comprises effecting the ring-opening polymerisation of a cyclosiloxane with a phosphazene base in the presence of a filler and of water, preferably from 0.5 mol to 10 mols of water per mol of phosphazene base. The filler is preferably selected from silica, alumina, titanium dioxide, carbon black and calcium carbonate, present in an amount of from 1 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of cyclosiloxane. An agent or conditions which inhibit catalyst activity may initially be present (e.g. carbon dioxide or excess water), and polymerisation may be initiated by reducing the effect of the inhibiting agent or conditions (e.g. by heating). Silicone elastomers produced by curing such silicone polymer-filler mixtures are also claimed.