

**Abstract**

The invention relates to a water treating agent comprising a ternary copolymer which is synthesized from a conjugated dienesulfonic acid and/or its salt, a (meth)acrylic acid and/or its salts, and a 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate or a (meth)acrylate-2-methylalkanesulfonic acid and/or its salt. Furthermore, the invention relates to a method for treating water which comprises adding to a water system a water treating agent that comprises a ternary copolymer as synthesized from a conjugated dienesulfonic acid and/or its salt, a (meth)acrylic acid and/or its salts, and a 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate or a (meth)acrylate-2-methylalkanesulfonic acid and/or its salt.

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