

CQ Grade Rubber Sheeting: Do You Really Know What You Are Buying?

Why are many 'commercial quality' grade materials on the market so inexpensive?

For economy reasons these sheeting products are heavily loaded with fillers and reground ingredients which are low cost and generally derive from used /recycled tyres. Additives of this nature significantly degrade the materials performance characteristics. When cured rubber is blended there will be inconsistencies across the material creating weakness patches in the physical structure. In the case of a CQ Nitrile for example the oil would find this weakness causing swelling and potential failure of seal.

Do these low priced sheets meet specification advised?

Due to the inconsistencies created [see above] it is very difficult for any CQ grade product containing these additives to meet specifications let alone be tested for resistance or physical characteristics. This is regardless of the distributors/manufacturers claim of % synthetic element contained in sheet.

How can I be assured that these 'commercial quality' grade materials are suitable for customers application?

There is no way to be 100% sure that a product containing regrind will perform satisfactorily under standard applications. For example nitrile [NBR] has excellent resistance to petroleum oils and aromatic hydrocarbons, mineral oils and many acids. As soon as an element of regrind or regenerated filler is added the benefits of the polymer are significantly reduced. We advise strong caution when recommending any commercial grade sheeting's for select applications relating to base polymers

Why are low priced sheets heavier?

The specific gravity of the regrind and fillers is much higher than the polymer content the products are supposed to contain. The more filler you use the heavier the product becomes as a general rule.

Why do most 'commercial quality' grade materials have such a strong odour?

The use of high levels of regrind rubber is generally the reason for the strong odour. The cheap oils and chemicals used to process and break down the fillers from cured to uncured state amplifies this.

Continued

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Summary

High levels of regrind material significantly degrade the physical properties and performance of the material. Do you really know what you are getting? Are you really making your customer a saving? With today's 'claim culture' can you really take the risk and supply your client with an inferior commercial grade polymer? When a customer asks for 100 x 3.0mm neoprene gaskets should you be advising that they are not receiving neoprene but 90% regrind/recycled tyre and small amount of neoprene polymer?

Metroseal has in the past and always will clearly define these products as can be seen in our latest sheeting brochure attached. Products that contain regrind ingredients are listed on page 5, the following Metroseal grades carry a high recommendation in comparison to cheaper alternatives

Neoprene – SM1610 (page 7)
Nitrile – SM116 (page 8)
EPDM – SM117 (page 10)
NR/SBR – SM123 (page 5)
NR/SBR Insertion – SM126 (page 5)

These products do not contain regrind and have minimal odour. They are available with **full test certification** and carry the following approvals.



There is a cost difference but we can supply you with a product that is REACH/RoHS/PAH/CE certified and you have confidence in what you are buying is what you are getting!
All prices can be found on our rubber sheeting price list, but please contact us if you require a copy.

We would strongly advise that you check with your current supplier with regards to recycled elements in your sheeting. If the material emits a strong odour and when cut internally has a 'grain' affect and fine inclusions then the likelihood is you are receiving a regrind rubber sheet.

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