



Ballina fibreglass supplies

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LATEX MOULD MAKING

Procedure

Fill soft brush with soapy water and gently squeeze out excess. The purpose of this is to make the brush easier to clean after using.

Dip the brush in the Latex and coat whatever model you are copying, being sure cover all the crevices and not allow any air spaces to remain. If necessary, you may dilute the latex compound with a little water for the first coat only, to make sure that it flows into all the crevices. If any bubbles appear on the surface, blow gently on them to break them.

When the rubber appears set, which will probably be evidenced by a change in colour or the rubber losing its milky cast which has when wet, apply a second coat of latex and as many coats as necessary drying in the same way. Build up enough coats to make sure that you have a good film of rubber, say perhaps 3mm to 6mm. When the rubber mould is built up so that be sufficiently rugged for your purpose, allow the mould to dry overnight in a warm, dry place.

Precaution

In the case of large flat moulds, where an area of more than 100 square mm is involved, as in a large plaque, the coating is done by patchwork, small squares of the surface are coated and allowed to dry then they are given additional coats. Small areas between the patchwork squares are filled in later. The purpose of this is to avoid shrinkage and result in distortion in the object, which ultimately formed. If your object is very small plan to coat it on all sides and not just the surfaces as in a plaque. An object that stands upright can be coated all over, provided a certain amount of latex is brushed down onto the surface on which the model stands, so that the shrinkage during drying will not cause the rubber to pull away from the base.

When finished, the mould is cut upon as much as is necessary to remove the model. If desired, the mould could be sliced into two even parts, each of the halves backed up with plaster when in use. The plaster used is known as a "mother mould and is roughly shaped to fit the outside of the rubber mould. The finished rubber mould is treated on the inside with a glycerine and water mixture, or soapsuds.

Alternately you can make a fibreglass support for the mould.

Available in 1kg, 2kg, 5kg and 18kg.

