

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

USE OF RECYCLED BLACK RUBBERS



In order to reduce confusion over the above products we are again confirming the facts relating to the usage of recycled black EPDM (Playmaker) granules and SBR granules.

Rubber, commonly known in the industry as SBR, is normally a mixture of SBR and natural rubber derived mainly from the recycling of used tyres. Neither of these rubbers are very UV stable and are usually protected by free ranging stabilisers which travel out to the surface of the rubber and shield them from UV degradation. This, combined with high levels of carbon black also in the rubber compounds, will most likely lead to an amount of staining of susceptible materials that come into contact with the exposed rubber. As such these materials are normally used in a protected situation, for example, under a spray coating or a synthetic grass carpet or in a playground base layer.

Recycled black EPDM (Playmaker) granules are produced from recycled factory waste from extrusions or moulding primarily from EPDM rubber compounds but can contain very small levels of other technical rubbers. It is often used as a finished surface layer as EPDM is slightly more compatible with the normal industry standard polyurethane binders and, as such, gives a stronger surface. EPDM rubber is quite UV stable and does not normally need additional stabilisers and is therefore much less likely to suffer from as much transfer of stain related ingredients as tyre rubber. However, it is a recycled material and does still contain significant quantities of carbon black and therefore it **should not be considered to be non-staining** in all circumstances. We would also recommend that the customer be warned of these facts and that consideration of the nature of the installation be discussed before using this product. For example, in a nursery where children are likely to sit and crawl across the surface the risk of a problem could be higher.

CLI does not guarantee that any of its non virgin black rubber products will not have a risk of some staining or susceptible materials coming into close contact with the rubbers and cannot accept any responsibility for any claims relating to this. However, we would again point out that the risk of any staining is going to be less with EPDM than with SBR rubbers.

CLI can supply clean, virgin black materials which are considered to be non-staining but they are significantly more expensive than full coloured granules and, as such, are almost never used as the client will always opt for a colour instead at a lower cost.