



# 3M Medical Specialties

## Technical Information Bulletin

May 2007

### 3M Hydrophilic Polyester Films Handling Suggestions Product No. 9960, 9962, and 9971

3M Medical Specialties is the trusted source for quality diagnostic device components. This technical bulletin is provided to assistance with handling of the hydrophilic polyester films for converting.

#### **Converting Suggestions:**

Due to the nature of the coating on the film, certain precautions should be taken during the converting and handling of the film.

Scratches and contamination will compromise the hydrophilic property of the film.

1. Clean and wipe down rollers and nips to eliminate the potential for film contamination. Residual debris and coatings used in previous processing runs may compromise the hydrophilic property.
2. Limit the number of rolls in direct contact with the film. Eliminate all unnecessary contact.
3. Any rollers the film contacts should be wrapped to prevent the roller from scratching the film. 3M recommends wrapping all rollers with a soft, non-adhering wrap to prevent scratches.
4. Check any tape wrapped around the rollers as the tape may scratch the film.
5. If a nip pull roll is used, the rubber or silicone roller may contaminate the surface due to pressure contact on the film. The film should be inspected after going through the nip roll to determine if there are marks, contamination or a reduction of hydrophilic property.
6. All rollers, whether driven or idle, must be moving at the same speed to minimize the potential for scratching.
7. Avoid contacting the surface with any adhesives unless the adhesive is being used as a permanent attachment.

As always, we recommend conducting studies to determine processing conditions that work best for your application.

#### **Handling Suggestions:**

Finger oils, scratches, and accidental liquid splashes onto the film are common culprits in the reduction of the hydrophilic property.

1. Remove the first few outer wraps before testing or processing to ensure that the hydrophilic property has not been compromised.
2. Wear cotton or cloth gloves during the evaluation, production, and packaging of this film to eliminate the potential for finger smudges and scratching.
3. It is best to hold the film at the edges and if possible, minimize the amount of handling.

Stacked sheets of the hydrophilic film may block against one another after an extended period of time. It is recommended that a slip-sheet be placed between film layers. Also, wrap the stacked sheets in a moisture impervious barrier to minimize the potential for reducing the hydrophilic property.

#### **Storage:**

As the product is hydrophilic, storage conditions are critical. Reduction/Loss of the hydrophilic property is minimized if the product remains wrapped in the moisture impervious barrier with the desiccant provided with original packaging. The product must be stored between 50°F-80°F (10°C-27°C) and a relative humidity between 40%-60%.

If there are additional questions concerning 3M Hydrophilic Polyester Films, please contact your 3M Medical Specialties Account Representative at 1-800-228-3957 (U.S.) or 651-604-5599 (International).

**Product and Safety Information:** User is solely responsible for determining the suitability of 3M samples and products for the intended use including any necessary safety or toxicity assessment. 3M will provide Material Safety Data Sheets and results of toxicity testing upon request. In every case before using any product in full scale production users should conduct their own tests to determine to their own satisfaction whether the product is of acceptable quality and is suitable for their particular purposes under their own operating conditions.

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Call us at Customer Service to place an order: 800-742-1994 (U.S.). Visit our website: [www.3M.com/medicalspecialties](http://www.3M.com/medicalspecialties) for product and services information, news about conferences we will be attending, new product highlights or to make a direct inquiry.

To have a sales representative contact you, to request samples or clinical and safety summaries, please contact us at 3M HELPLINE 800-228-3957 (U.S.) or for international inquiries, please contact your local country representative. Our 3M Medical Specialties subsidiary contacts are listed below.

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