

## 3M Advanced Materials

# 3M™ Glass Bubbles K15HSN

## Introduction

3M™ Glass Bubbles K15HSN are high-strength, low-density additives specially formulated to potentially afford higher survivability at low resin densities. They are hollow glass microspheres made from water-resistant and chemically-stable soda-lime borosilicate glass. These hollow glass microspheres can be used as a low-density filler material for many applications. They help reduce density and offer improved thermal insulation for better energy efficiency. They are used in a variety of applications in diverse markets, including automotive, construction, paints and coatings, and oil and gas applications.

## Formulating Information

**Flow properties:** 3M Glass Bubbles K15HSN, packaged in bags/boxes, will remain free-flowing for at least two years from the date of manufacture when stored in the original, unopened container following the recommended storage conditions. For bulk deliveries, the material will remain free-flowing for at least one year from the date of manufacture when stored under recommended relative humidity conditions.

(See storage recommendations on the following page.)

**Product breakage:** Breakage may occur if the product is severely processed. To minimize breakage, minimize exposure to high shear processes and point contact shear such as gear pumps and 3-roll mills. Contact 3M technical service or your equipment vendor for assistance if breakage is suspected.

## Material Description (Not for specification purposes)

Property	3M™ Glass Bubbles K15HSN
Shape	Hollow spheres with thin walls
Composition	Soda-lime borosilicate glass
Color, unaided eye	Off-white, powdery

## Typical Physical Properties (Not for specification purposes)

Property	3M™ Glass Bubbles K15HSN
Isostatic pressure at 80% survival (psi)	600
True density (g/cc)	0.15
Packing factor, average (bulk density to true particle density)	63%
pH (at 5 wt% loading in water)	9.5
D50 (µm)	40
D95 (µm)	80
Softening point (°F/°C)	1112/600
Volatile content (typical, by weight)	0.3%

3M™ Advanced Materials product realization process and manufacturing sites are aligned to ISO 9001 Quality Systems. Test data is generated by following documented procedures and test methods.

**Storage:** Ideal storage conditions include unopened cartons in a dry and temperature-controlled warehouse. Extended exposure of 3M™ Glass Bubbles K15HSN boxes to high humidity and/or conditions susceptible to condensation may result in some amount of “caking” of the 3M Glass Bubble.

To minimize the potential for caking and thereby maximizing storage life, the following suggestions are offered:

1. Carefully re-tie opened bags immediately after use.
2. If the polyethylene bag is punctured during shipping or handling, seal the hole as soon as possible or insert the contents into an undamaged bag.
3. During hot and/or humid months, store boxes in the driest, coolest space available.

If controlled storage conditions are unavailable, carry a minimum inventory and process on a first in/first out basis.

**Handling:** Due to the low weight and small particle size of 3M™ Glass Bubbles K15HSN, dusting may occur while handling and processing. To minimize the dusting potential during handling, consider the following:

1. Do not open 3M Glass Bubble packages until ready to use.
2. Upon opening, have an air siphon near the opening to pull away airborne particles. (Dust collection equipment may be required – check local OSHA and other applicable regulations including your own company policies and rules for handling these types of products.)
3. Remove 3M Glass Bubbles with a suction “wand” (with slight positive pressure aeration) and transfer to a closed mixing tank inside fully contained piping. If a closed mixing tank is not available, use dust collection equipment as close as practical to the point of entry. Pneumatic conveyor systems have been used successfully to transport glass bubbles without dusting from shipping containers to batch mixing equipment. Equipment vendors should be consulted for recommendations.
4. Static eliminators should be used to prevent static buildup.

**Safety:** For worker protection, please consider the following:

- Safety glasses with side shields are recommended. An exposure assessment may be needed to decide if a respirator is required. For additional information about personal protective equipment, refer to Safety Data Sheet.
- Use with appropriate local exhaust ventilation/dust collection in the work area.

Refer to the 3M™ Glass Bubbles Safety Data Sheet for additional safety information.

#### Additional Information

3M™ Glass Bubbles are supported by global sales, technical and customer service resources, with fully-staffed technical service laboratories in the U.S., Europe, Japan, Latin America and Southeast Asia. Users benefit from 3M’s broad technology base and continuing attention to product development, performance, safety and environmental issues.

**For additional technical information on 3M™ Glass Bubbles in the United States, visit our web site at:** [www.3M.com/glassbubbles](http://www.3M.com/glassbubbles).

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