


# IMPRESSION MATERIALS

**S.C. BAYNE,<sup>1</sup>**  
**J.Y. Thompson<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of Michigan  
School of Dentistry  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1078  
sbayne@umich.edu

<sup>2</sup>Nova Southeastern  
College of Dental Medicine,  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018  
jeffthom@nova.edu



## PROBLEM ANALYSIS

What are tolerable limits for "error" in indirect procedures?

a. Impressions	= +/- 0
b. Casts, Dies	= +/- 0
c. Waxing	= +/- 0
d. Investing	= + 1.5%
e. Casting	= - 1.5%
f. Finishing, Polishing	= +/- 0
g. Cementation	= +/- 0

Prepped  
Tooth  
Width

← 8 mm (=8,000 μm)

8,000 μm x 0.5% = 40 μm = 20 μm/side  
Typical clinical error = >100 μm/side

## DIGITAL IMPRESSIONS

How much longer will we use regular impression materials?

CONVENTIONAL		DIGITAL
a. Impressions	+/- 0	a. Digital Impression
b. Casts, Dies	+/- 0	b. Digital Replica
c. Waxing	+/- 0	c. Oversized Digital Design
d. Investing	+ 1.5%	d. (Eliminated)
e. Casting	- 1.5%	e. Digital Fabrication
f. Finishing, Polishing	+/- 0	f. Finishing, Polishing
g. Cementation	+/- 0	g. Cementation

## CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

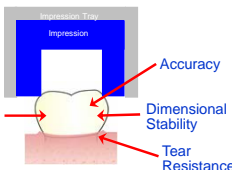
Based on properties of set materials.

	<u>Properties:</u>	<u>Reaction:</u>	<u>Set:</u>
<i>Rigid:</i>			
1. Impression Plaster	Rigid	Irrev	(Chem)
2. Impression Compound	Rigid	Rev	(Phys)
3. Zinc Oxide/ Eugenol	Rigid	Irrev	(Chem)
<i>Water-Based Gel:</i>			
4. Alginate (Irreversible Hydrocolloid)	Flexible	Irrev	(Chem)
5. Agar-Agar (Reversible Hydrocolloid)	Flexible	Rev	(Phys)
<i>Elastomers (and their HYBRIDS):</i>			
6. Polysulfide (Rubber Base, Thiokol)	Flexible	Irrev	(Chem)
7. Silicone (Conventional, Condensation)	Flexible	Irrev	(Chem)
8. Polyether	Flexible	Irrev	(Chem)
9. Polyvinyl Siloxane (Addition Silicone)	Flexible	Irrev	(Chem)

## KEY PROPERTIES

3 major concerns.

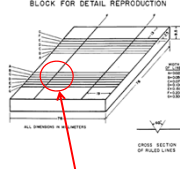
- Accuracy** = ability to replicate the intraoral surface details. (Low contact angle (wetting) and flow produce adaptation.)
- Dimensional Stability** = ability to retain its absolute dimensional size over time.
- Tear Resistance** = ability to resist tearing in thin sections (such as through the feather-edged material within the gingival sulcus).



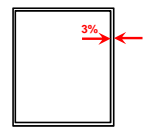
## HOW DO YOU RUN THE TESTS?

Tests for accuracy, dimensional stability, and tear resistance?

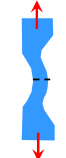
**Accuracy**



**Dimensional Stability**



**Tear Resistance**

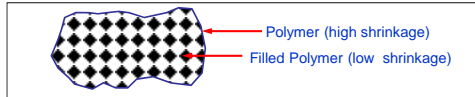


<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7FDEMJSimQ>

## GENERAL FORMULATION

Elastic impression materials.

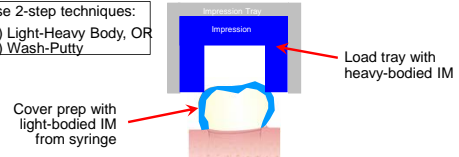
- Flexible Matrix (Continuous Phase):**
  - Multifunctional Pre-Polymer or Polymer
  - Crosslinking Agent
  - Curing Agent (Catalyst or Initiator)
  - Modifiers (Accelerators, Retarders, Plasticizers, Flavoring Agents, Colorants)
  - Wetting and flow aids.
- Filler or Extender (Dispersed Phase):**



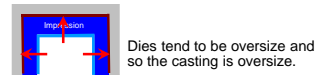
## SHRINKAGE MANAGEMENT

Elastomeric impressions.

Use 2-step techniques:  
(a) Light-Heavy Body, OR  
(b) Wash-Putty



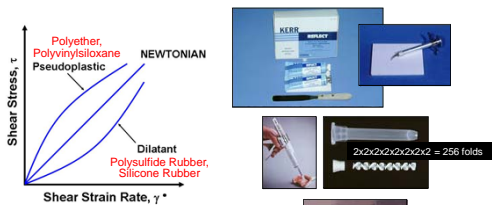
During setting shrinkage, distortion of impression is toward tray.



Dies tend to be oversize and so the casting is oversize.

## MIXING AND DELIVERY

Elastomeric impressions.



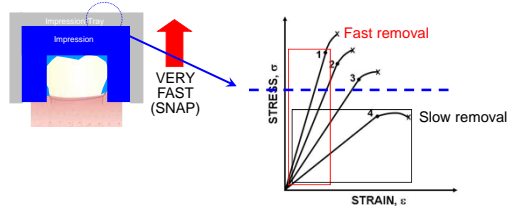
Mixing Options:

- 2 Pastes on Mixing Pad
- 2 Pastes in Mixing Gun
- 2 Pastes in Mixing Machine

## DISTORTION

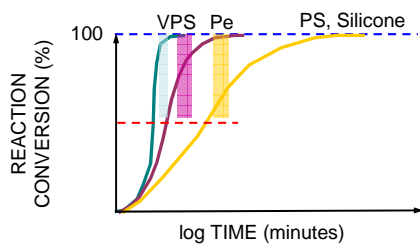
Distortion during tray removal.

Strain rate sensitive elastomers !



## IMPRESSION MATERIALS

Distortion related to setting reaction.



## POLYSULFIDE RUBBER

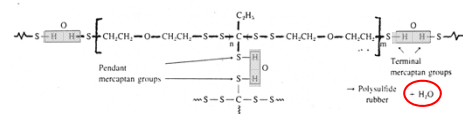
Chemistry and setting reaction.

**CONTINUOUS PHASE:**

**Polymer**  
= Mercaptan Functional Polysulfide  
= Sulfur and/or Lead Peroxide  
= PbO<sub>2</sub> or Copper Hydroxides (Type I)  
Zinc Peroxide or  
Organic Hydroperoxide (Type II)

**DISPERSED PHASE:**

**Fillers**  
= TiO<sub>2</sub> or Zinc Sulfate or  
Lithopone or Calcium Sulfate Dihydrate




**SETTING REACTION:**

Stepwise (relatively slow), Exothermic, Affected by temperature

## POLYSULFIDE RUBBER

Manipulation and technique considerations.

- Two-step techniques recommended: Reduces a surface tension effects.
- Material adversely affected by H<sub>2</sub>O, saliva, and blood.
- Set impression should be removed quickly - do not rock.
- No syneresis or imbibition, but distortion due to contraction.
- Ideally need uniform thickness and at least 2 mm
  - Adhesive must be thin
  - Adhesive must be dry
- Paste-Paste Mixing Recommendations:
  - Dispense pastes at the top of the mixing pad
  - Mix pastes with tip of spatula only for 5 seconds
  - Transfer mass to fresh surface at center of mixing pad
  - Wipe spatula off with paper towel; Stop mass for 15s to constant color
  - Load syringe or tray
  - Use pad excess to monitor setting time
- Pouring of models:
 

## SILICONE RUBBER

Chemistry and setting reaction.

**CONTINUOUS PHASE:**

- Polymer** = Polydimethyl Siloxane
- Crosslinking Agent** = Alkyl Orthosilicate or Organo H-Silane
- Catalysts** = Organo Tin Compounds (e.g., tin octoate) (but not dibutyl tin dilaurate)
- Modifiers** = Colorants, Flavorants

**DISPERSED PHASE:**

- Fillers** = Silica

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \\ | \\ \text{HO}-\text{Si}-\text{O}-\text{H} \\ | \\ \text{CH}_3 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{C}_2\text{H}_5 \\ | \\ \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O}-\text{Si}-\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5 \\ | \\ \text{C}_2\text{H}_5 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ || \\ \text{Sn}-\text{O}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O} \\ | \\ \text{C}_8\text{H}_{17} \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{OC}_2\text{H}_5 \quad \text{CH}_3 \\ | \quad | \quad | \\ \text{Si}-\text{O}-\text{Si}-\text{O}-\text{Si}- \\ | \quad | \quad | \\ \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{O}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{C}_8\text{H}_{17} \quad \text{C}_8\text{H}_{17} \\ \text{Silicone rubber} \\ \text{= CALUM} \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

**SETTING REACTION:**  
Stepwise (relatively slow), Exothermic, Affected by temperature  
H<sub>2</sub>O by-products

## SILICONE RUBBER

Manipulation and technique considerations.

- Limited shelf-life: Unstable in tubes.
- Requires mechanical retention or special tray adhesives
- No syneresis or imbibition, but continued polymerization shrinkage.
- Better dimensional stability than RHC but more expensive
- Pouring of models:
  - More flexible so more chance for distortion during removal
  - Wait 20-30 minutes before pour for stress relaxation to occur

## POLYETHER RUBBER

Chemistry and setting reactions.

**CONTINUOUS PHASE:**

- Polymer** = Amine-terminated Polyether
- Crosslinking Agent** = Aromatic Sulfonate
- Catalysts** =
- Modifiers** = Colorants, Glycol Plasticizers, Flavorants

**DISPERSED PHASE:**

- Fillers** = Silica

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{H} \quad \text{O} \quad \text{R} \\ | \quad || \quad | \\ \text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{L}-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{O}-\text{L}-\text{O}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}-\text{CH}_2 \\ | \quad | \quad | \quad | \\ \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{R} \quad \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{SO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3 \\ | \\ \text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2-\text{Cl} \\ | \\ \text{Cl} \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{Crosslinked Polyether Rubber} \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

**SETTING REACTION:**  
Stepwise (relatively slow), Exothermic, Affected by temperature

## POLYETHER RUBBER

Manipulation and technique considerations.

- Excellent impression accuracy and dimensional stability.
- Stiff and therefore difficult to remove without rocking.
- Break seal and rock slightly to prevent tearing: Low tear resistance.
- Negatively affected by H<sub>2</sub>O, saliva, and blood.
  - Since hydrophobic, moisture increases marginal discrepancy
  - Increased water absorption occurs if use thinning agents
- Can be dispensed from automated extruder and mixer (ESPE PentaMix)
 

## POLYVINYL SILOXANE

Chemistry and setting reactions.

**CONTINUOUS PHASE:**

- Polymer** = Double-bond-functional Silicone Polymer
- Crosslinking Agent** = Chloroplatinic Acid
- Catalysts** =
- Modifiers** = Colorants, Flavorants, Plasticizers

**DISPERSED PHASE:**

- Fillers** = Silica

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \\ | \quad | \\ \text{O}-\text{Si}-\text{O}-\text{Si}-\text{H} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_2 \quad \text{CH}_2 \\ | \quad | \\ \text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{Si}-\text{O}-\text{Si}-\text{O} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_2 \quad \text{CH}_2 \\ | \quad | \quad | \quad | \\ \text{O}-\text{Si}-\text{O}-\text{Si}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{Si}-\text{O}-\text{Si}-\text{O} \\ | \quad | \quad | \quad | \\ \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{CH}_3 \end{array} + \text{H}_2 \uparrow \\
 \text{Silicone rubber}
 \end{array}$$

**SETTING REACTION:**  
Chain (very fast), Exothermic, Affected by temperature  
Hydrogen gas released by decomposition of crosslinking agent.

# POLVINLSILOXANE

Manipulation and technique considerations.

- BEST impression material for dimensional stability:  
Pouring should be delayed at least 4 hours for H<sub>2</sub> out-gassing.  
Pouring can be delayed up to 7-to-10 days (or indefinitely).
- Stiffness makes removal difficult.
- Most material dispensed using auto-mixing gun and mixing tips

# COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

1980-1995

Manufacturer	Polysulfide	Cony. Silicone	Polyether	Polyvinyl Siloxane (PVS)
Bisco				
Dentmat				
Dentsply				
DMG Hamburg				
GC America				
Ivoclar-Vivadent				
Kerr (Sybron)				
Heraeus-Kulzer				
3M-ESPE				
Parkell				

Predominantly POLYSULFIDE and SILICONE elastomers before 1995.

# COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

1996-2004

Manufacturer	Polysulfide	Cony. Silicone	Polyether	Polyvinyl Siloxane (PVS)
Bisco				
Dentmat				
Dentsply				
DMG Hamburg				
GC America				
Ivoclar-Vivadent				
Kerr (Sybron)				
Heraeus-Kulzer				
3M-ESPE				
Parkell				

Predominantly POLYETHER and PVS elastomers after 1996.

# IMPRESSION MATERIALS

Comparison of key properties

### 1. Accuracy (Reproduction of Detail):

- Wetting of Tissues: ALG < SIL < PS < PE <= RHC < PVS
- Wetting by Dental Stone: SIL < PVS < PS < PE <= ALG, RHC

### 2. Dimensional Stability:

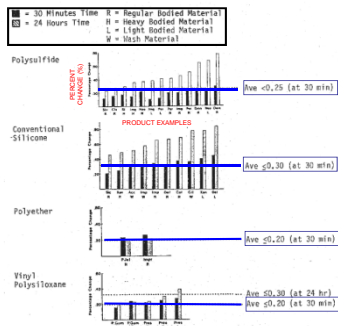
- (Resistance to Distortion):
- Polymerization Shrinkage: ALG <= RHC < PS, SIL < PE < PVS
  - Thermal Shrinkage
  - Loss of Components
  - Stress Relaxation

### 3. Tear Resistances (Elasticity):

- Elastic Deformation: ALG, RHC, PE < PVS < SIL < PS
- Strain Rate Sensitivity

# DIMENSIONAL STABILITY

Comparison of products.



# QUICK REVIEW

Review of uniaxial analysis, normalization, and stress-strain.

- Which indirect procedural step involves the greatest shrinkage? COOLING OF A CAST ALLOY
- What are the 3 major categories of all impression materials? RIGID; WATER-BASED; ELASTOMERS
- What are the 4 types of ELASTOMERIC impression materials? POLYSULFIDE, SILICONE, POLYETHER, VINYL POLYSILOXANE
- What are the 3 most important PROPERTIES? ACCURACY, DIMENSIONAL STABILITY, TEAR RESISTANCE
- What are the major categories of COMPONENTS? PRE-POLYMER, CROSSLINKING AGENT, CURING AGENT, MODIFIER, WETTING/FLOW AIDS.
- During shrinkage, in what direction does distortion occur? TOWARD THE TRAY.

## QUICK REVIEW

Review of uniaxial analysis, normalization, and stress-strain.

- What TERM describes materials that flow better under stress?  
PSEUDOPLASTIC
- What TERM describes effects of distortion time on properties?  
STRAIN RATE SENSITIVITY
- What type of setting reaction does POLYETHER undergo?  
STEPWISE POLYMERIZATION
- What type of setting reaction does PVS undergo?  
CHAIN REACTION POLYMERIZATION
- Which impression material has the best OVERALL properties?  
PVS.
- Which impression material is the most ACCURATE?  
POLYETHER.



THANK YOU

