Silicone Additive Solutions for HFFR Wire and Cable Applications

As regulatory requirements and market demands for wire and cable products change, how can formulators meet new challenges?

Those challenges include:

• Increasing demand for halogen-free flame retardants
• Proper dispersion of pigments and additives
• Maintaining and improving hydrophobicity
• Reducing torque, die build-up, and other extrusion problems
• Process stability and productivity
• Controlling surface properties

Silicone additives from Dow Corning offer solutions for wire and cable formulators, such as:

• Processing aids to reduce torque and die drool
• Properties extenders to enhance dispersion and performance of flame retardants and other additives
• Reinforced material enhancers to improve compatibilization and crosslinking
• Surface and bulk modifiers to provide more control over finish properties
What’s Your Challenge?

*Dow Corning®* brand additives are specifically formulated to help you solve many of the challenges common to formulating compounds for the wire and cable market.

### Typical Properties of Additives and Modifiers for Wire and Cable Solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products</th>
<th>Physical Form</th>
<th>Die Drool</th>
<th>Surface Quality</th>
<th>Crosslinking</th>
<th>Processability</th>
<th>Fire Retardant</th>
<th>Water Resistance</th>
<th>Compatibility/Coupling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4-7081/4-7105 Resin Modifiers</strong></td>
<td>Free-Flowing Powder</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MB50-002/MB50-320 Masterbatches</strong></td>
<td>Pellet</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11-100 Additive</strong></td>
<td>Liquid</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+++ (EXCELLENT)  ++ (VERY GOOD)  + (GOOD)  – (NEUTRAL)

### Multifunction Additive: *Dow Corning®* Si Powder Resin Modifiers

*Dow Corning* Si Powder Resin Modifiers can help you replace additives that offer single benefits. *Dow Corning®* 4-7081 and *Dow Corning®* 4-7105 Resin Modifiers are free-flowing powders that enhance processing and performance properties.

Recommended loading of *Dow Corning* Si Powder Resin Modifiers is between 2% and 8% by weight, depending on application.

### Comparison of *Dow Corning* 4-7081 Resin Modifier with Competitive Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Die Drool Reduction</th>
<th>Torque</th>
<th>Tensile Strength at Break</th>
<th>Tensile Elongation</th>
<th>Limited Oxygen Index</th>
<th>H₂O Absorption Reduction</th>
<th>Cost In Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>(%) Δ</td>
<td>(%) Δ</td>
<td>(%) Δ</td>
<td>(%) Δ</td>
<td>1 Month (%) Δ</td>
<td>(%) Δ</td>
<td>Base Case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dow Corning 4-7081 Resin Modifier (4%)</strong></td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>-11%</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>+9%</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>Base Case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4% C1 (Si-Based)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-19%</td>
<td>-19%</td>
<td>-46%</td>
<td>+5%</td>
<td>-23%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2% C2 (Si-Based)</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>-17%</td>
<td>-9%</td>
<td>-21%</td>
<td>-11%</td>
<td>+23%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4% C3 (Organic)</td>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>-12%</td>
<td>-25%</td>
<td>+6%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-16%</td>
<td>33% Lower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% C4 (Fluoro-Based)</td>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-31%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-23%</td>
<td>33% Higher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+++ (EXCELLENT)  + (GOOD)  Ø (POOR)

### Significant Die Drool (Plate Out) Reduction

- 0% *Dow Corning* 4-7081 Resin Modifier, 61% ATH
- 4% *Dow Corning* 4-7081 Resin Modifier, 57% ATH
Improved Productivity and Surface Properties: Dow Corning® MB50-002 and MB50-320 Masterbatches

Dow Corning MB50-002 and MB50-320 Masterbatches are pelletized materials containing an UHMW siloxane polymer dispersed in LDPE. They can help you enhance surface properties while increasing productivity.

In processing, the addition of Dow Corning® Masterbatches:
• Reduces extruder torque and screw slippage
• Improves processing and flow
• Increases throughput
• Lowers scrap rate and energy costs
• Improves filler dispersion

It also offers finish properties that are important in wires and cables, such as:
• Smooth, glossy surface
• Scratch resistance
• Fewer printing problems

Recommended loading of Dow Corning MB50-002 or MB50-320 Masterbatch is 0.2% to 2.0% to improve processing and flow, and 2% to 6% to improve surface properties.

Improved Hydrophobicity: Dow Corning® 11-100 Additive

If improving water resistance is your primary goal, consider Dow Corning 11-100 Additive. It is an excellent hydrophobant, reducing water trees phenomena and providing better aging properties. This clear liquid also offers:
• Excellent water repellence
• Better compatibility with the polyolefin polymer matrix
• Improved process stability and compounding productivity, by improving filler de-agglomeration and hydrophobicity
• Improved dispersion of fillers such as MDH/ATH/CaCO₃
• Improved limiting oxygen index value
• Easier and more convenient usage than many other filler dispersion aids

Recommended loading of Dow Corning 11-100 Additive is between 1% and 3%, depending on the filler.

### Physical Properties of HDPE modified with a UHMW Polydimethylsiloxane Additive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Dow Corning® MB50-002 Content, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tensile Strength, MPa</td>
<td>25 25 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elongation, %</td>
<td>76 79 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modulus, MPa</td>
<td>1364 1632 908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Izod, Notch, J/m</td>
<td>957 811 721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melt Flow, g/10 minutes</td>
<td>0.1 0.1 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicat Softening, °C</td>
<td>128 125 119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Amperage Effect in Single-Screw Extrusion

![Graph showing amperage effect in single-screw extrusion](image)
Many Solutions. One Source.

A longtime global leader in developing innovative new silicon-based solutions, Dow Corning offers a variety of solutions to wire and cable formulators. Our additive portfolio offers property enhancement, processing aids and modifiers — in liquids, powders and pellets and our customer service and technical support can help you invent the future of the wire and cable industry.

Information, Answers and Product Samples

To learn more about Dow Corning’s wide range of solutions for wire and cable formulators, visit dowcorning.com/plascomp.

If you have questions, email the Dow Corning Plastics team at plastics@dowcorning.com.

For product samples, contact the Dow Corning Technical Information Center nearest you.

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