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Softouch^{*} Boron Nitride Powders: The Science of Softness

What is Softouch boron nitride (BN) powder?

Boron nitride, a synthetic, inorganic, non-animal derived material, can provide personal care formulators with a wide range of tactile and optical effects. The typical benefits of Softouch boron nitride include a silky, luxurious feel in color cosmetic and skin care products, as well as an improvement in adhesion and wear characteristics. Testing demonstrated that Softouch BN powder can significantly enhance the performance of many cosmetic products due to its soft focus properties and non-transfer characteristics. The unique properties of Softouch powders are the result of their layered, hexagonal crystal structure.

Is Softouch BN powder a natural ingredient?

Softouch BN powder is a synthetic, inorganic, non-animal derived material. It is produced from primary raw materials of natural minerals (such as borax), melamine, and energy (primarily electric).

Softouch BN powder is essentially inert and non-toxic, and does not decompose into any hazardous or regulated material. Therefore, it is not considered a hazardous chemical under EPA, OSHA, or SARA guidelines.

What are the Typical Benefits of Softouch BN powder?

Softouch BN powder in cosmetic formulations:

- May reduce the visible signs of fine lines due to its soft focus properties
- Glides on skin when applied and improves “spreadability”
- Can provide very high lubricity through ceramic technology
- May extend the life of cosmetic and skin care products with enhanced adhesion
- Combines both slip and adherence characteristics in one product
- Can provide excellent pigment dispersion capability
- Offers many special pigment effects through crystalline variation-opacity, translucence, or pearlescence

Momentive Performance Materials provides versatile materials as the starting point for our creative approach to ideas that help enable new developments across hundreds of industrial and consumer applications. We are helping customers

solve product, process, and performance problems; our silanes, fluids, elastomers, sealants, resins, adhesives, urethane additives, and other specialty products are delivering innovation in everything from car engines to biomedical devices.

From helping to develop safer tires and keeping electronics cooler, to improving the feel of lipstick and ensuring the reliability of adhesives, our technologies and enabling solutions are at the frontline of innovation.

What are soft focus properties?

Wrinkles and fine lines in human skin are visible partially because they do not reflect light in the same manner as the smoother parts of the skin. When cosmetic ingredient or filler can hide fine wrinkles using optical effects, it is said to be “soft focus”. Softouch BN powder can mask fine lines and wrinkles by absorbing, diffusing and reflecting light. The optical effects depend on the Softouch BN powder products’ particle size, shape, and usage levels.

Does pH affect Softouch BN powder?

Softouch BN is not affected by pH. It can withstand both alkaline and acidic pH values.

For use in what kind of cosmetic products should Softouch BN powder be considered?

- Foundation
- Sunscreen
- Pencils
- Lipstick
- Eye treatment
- Facial moisturizer
- Eye shadow
- Blush
- Concealer
- Body lotion
- Mascara
- Facial/body powder
- Acne care
- Anti-wrinkle cream & serum

Softouch CC6004 BN powder is Momentive’s premium product. Due to the rounded platelets, it is the most lubricious and has the highest level of adherence among the five Momentive grades. It is the most translucent of the powders. Softouch CC6004 BN powder is an excellent choice to consider for products in which slip, feel, and silkiness are of paramount importance.

Softouch CC6058 BN powder provides an optimal combination of benefits such as lubricity, adherence, and oil absorption. This powder has a translucent, semi-matte finish and may be considered for use in color, skin, and sun care products.

Softouch CC6059 BN powder and Softouch CC6069 BN powder have very high oil absorption properties. They can provide a matte look to the final personal care formulation. These grades provide excellent slip and adherence characteristics.

Softouch CCS102 BN powder has larger particles, which allow light to reflect from the crystals, resulting in a cosmetic with a pearlescent finish. This product is very lubricious and has excellent adherence properties.

What are the recommended use levels for Softouch BN powder?

The amount of Softouch BN powder to use in formulations will vary from as little as 1% to as much as 100%, depending on the targeted end-product benefits.

Into what phase process is Softouch BN powder added?

Most processes add Softouch BN powder to the formula during the pigment phase. Softouch BN powder can typically also be added during the oil or water phases.

Patent Status

One or more US patents pending.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to imply the nonexistence of any relevant patents or to constitute the permission, inducement or recommendation to practice any invention covered by any patent, without authority from the owner of the patent.

Product Safety, Handling and Storage

Customers considering the use of this product should review the latest Material Safety Data Sheet and label for product safety information, handling instructions, personal protective equipment if necessary, and any special storage conditions required. Material Safety Data Sheets are available at www.momentive.com or, upon request, from any Momentive Performance Materials representative. Use of other materials in conjunction with Momentive Performance Materials products (for example, primers) may require additional precautions. Please review and follow the safety information provided by the manufacturer of such other materials.

Limitations

Customers must evaluate Momentive Performance Materials products and make their own determination as to fitness of use in their particular applications.

Emergency Service

Momentive Performance Materials maintains an around-the-clock emergency service for its products. The American Chemistry Council (CHEMTREC), Transport Canada (CANUTEC), and the Chemical Emergency Agency Service also maintain an around-the-clock emergency service for all chemical products:

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Europe, Middle East, Africa	+32.(0)14.58.45.45 (Belgium)	CHEMTREC: +1-703.527.3887 (collect)
Latin America, Asia/Pacific, all other locations worldwide	+518.233.2500	CHEMTREC: +1-703.527.3887 (collect)
At sea	Radio U.S. Coast Guard, which can directly contact Momentive Performance Materials at 518.233.2500 or CHEMTREC at 800.424.9300.	

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CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTERS

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E cs-na.silicones@momentive.com

• Specialty Fluids	T +1.800.523.5862	F +1.304.746.1654
• UA, Silanes, Resins and Specialties	T +1.800.334.4674	F +1.304.746.1623
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Latin America

E cs-la.silicones@momentive.com

• Argentina & Chile	T +54.11.4862.9544	F +54.11.4862.9544
• Brazil	T +55.11.4534.9650	F +55.11.4534.9660
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• Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru Colombia & Caribbean	T +58.212.285.2149	F +58.212.285.2149

Europe, Middle East, Africa and India

E cs-eur.silicones@momentive.com

T +00.800.4321.1000
T +31.164.225350

Pacific

E cs-ap.silicones@momentive.com

T +0120.975.400 F +81.276.31.6259
T +0.81.276.20.6182

Worldwide Hotline

T +1.607.786.8131 F +1.607.786.8309
T +1.800.295.2392

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