

An Introduction to METHOCEL™, Premium Cellulose Ethers

METHOCEL™ cellulose ethers are water-soluble polymers derived from cellulose, the most abundant polymer in nature.

METHOCEL™ products are used as thickeners, binders and film formers. They also function as suspension aids, surfactants, lubricants and emulsifiers. In addition, solutions of METHOCEL™ thermally gel, a unique property that plays a key role in a variety of applications.

Range of Products Offers Formulating Versatility

The broad range of METHOCEL™ products available is certainly one reason they've been used successfully in so many different applications. There are two different chemical types and each is available in different grades and viscosities. By choosing a specific METHOCEL™ product, it's possible to obtain the optimum properties desired in a given formulation.

Premium and Food Grades for Food and Drug Applications

METHOCEL™ Premium products have long been used by the food and drug industries. Both methylcellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose are recognized as acceptable food additives by the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are listed in the Food Chemicals Codex and the International Codex Alimentarius. Both are included in the United States Pharmacopoeia and Ph. Eur. Methylcellulose is considered generally recognized as safe (GRAS) by the FDA.

Viscosity Types from 3 To 100,000 mPa·s

METHOCEL™ premium products are available in various viscosity types, ranging from 3 to 100,000 mPa·s. Because the viscosity of a solution depends on the concentration of METHOCEL™, this wide range of product viscosity allows you to obtain the viscosity you want in a formulation while using a concentration that gives the desired level of other performance properties.

Key to Product Nomenclature for METHOCEL Products

METHOCEL™ is a trademark of The Dow Chemical Company for a line of cellulose ether products. An initial letter identifies the type of cellulose ether. "A" identifies methylcellulose products. "E", "F" and "K" identify different hypromellose products.

The number that follows identifies the viscosity in millipascal-seconds (mPa·s) of that product measured at 2% concentration in water at 20°C. In designating viscosity, the letter "C" is used to represent 100 and the letter "M" is used to represent 1000.

Several different suffixes are also used to identify special products. "P" is sometimes used to identify METHOCEL™ Premium grade products. "LV" refers to special "low viscosity" products and "CR" denotes a controlled-release grade.

How to Get Started Formulating With METHOCEL

To completely evaluate how METHOCEL™ cellulose ethers can improve quality, performance and economy in your formulations, you'll want to try them in your own lab. Whether you are developing an entirely new product or working to improve an existing one, chances are that you'll find a METHOCEL™ product that's ideally suited to your needs.

Free Samples and Literature Available

Sample quantities of METHOCEL™ products are available free of charge for your development work. You can obtain samples by calling your local Colorcon office or by visiting the Colorcon website at <http://www.colorcon.com>.

Our Technical Service and Development Staff Can Help

Talking with someone on our Technical Service Team can save you a great deal of formulation time. In certain applications, a blend of METHOCEL™ products may give the best results and the details may already have been worked out by someone in our lab. By taking advantage of their experience with METHOCEL™, you'll get a head start with your formulation.

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