

Greener alternative

Thermoplastic compounder RTP is ramping up green efforts by making a new range of specialty compounds using post-consumer content (PCC) resins. Additionally, its high gravity thermoplastic compound helps to improve performance of golf discs.

APN reports



Golf discs produced by RTP high gravity compound are able to adapt well to a variety of playing conditions

Global custom engineered thermoplastic compounder RTP (www.rtpcompany.com) has recently made available a new series of specialty compounds using post-consumer content (PCC) resins. The reclaimed resins are plastics diverted from solid waste streams through recycling programs. PCC compounds provide an additional environmentally conscious option to the material selection process.

"Our PCC compounds have distinct environmental advantages over non-recycled materials and are an ideal solution for those needing to source greener products," says David Dodds, Technical Marketing manager at RTP. "RTP has the engineering and compounding expertise to tailor PCC compounds to target specific performance requirements while including properties from our complete portfolio of specialty compounds -- thereby providing a more sustainable, multi-solution product."

The percentage of reclaimed material in the polymer component of PCC compounds can range from 1 to 100% depending on the requirements of individual applications. In addition to providing colour, conductive, flame retardant, structural, or wear resistant properties, PCC compounds from RTP Company are easily customizable to meet corporate environmental sustainability goals

or marketing objectives to increase consumer appeal. They can also help improve product scoring for environmental measurement tools such as EPEAT or LEED.

PCC compounds are available globally in nylon (PA), polycarbonate (PC), and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) resins, as well as alloys based on these post-consumer feedstocks. Engineering versatility allows these recycled materials to be used in a wide range of applications for consumer goods, building materials, automotive components, and electronics devices. PCC compounds are part of a trio of RTP Company products that also includes bioplastics and halogen-free compounds that are ideally suited for selection in eco-conscious applications.

Gateway Disc Sports (www.gdstour.com), supplier of high performance golf discs and accessories, has partnered with global custom thermoplastic compounder RTP to upgrade their Shur-Grip product line of discs. Gateway's aim is to improve grip performance while still maintaining flexibility, making the discs more thrower-friendly for both novice and professional golfers.

"Our main goal was to find a material that would accept mineral additives to reach a density of 2.0," explains David McCormack, owner of Gateway. "RTP Company engi-

neers were able to formulate a material that reached 2.0 easily, allowing us to maintain the flexibility of our discs to adapt well to a variety of playing conditions."

Gateway designers selected an RTP 2800B Series high gravity thermoplastic vulcanizate (TPV) compound for their discs. The material has excellent surface abrasion and impact resistance properties, which prolongs the durability of discs during use while its thermoplastic elastomer nature provides necessary flexibility.

"When using mineral additives to modify density, we've discovered the softer thermoplastic elastomer components tend to migrate to the part surface during moulding," says McCormack. "As a result, every disc we make has a tacky, easy-to-grip surface. This is a significant benefit for golfers, especially when playing in less-than-ideal conditions."

RTP Company's TPV-based thermoplastic elastomer material is also fully colourable over a wide spectrum -- allowing for a variety of colours to cater to the preference of the golfer. "We really found a perfect match with RTP Company," McCormack adds. "With their material, batches were consistently accurate during every stage of production, which made it easy to create a quality product."