

Troubleshooting When Molding Rubber Stamps

Common Problems & Remedial Steps

<i>TROUBLE</i>	<i>POSSIBLE CAUSE</i>	<i>REMEDY</i>
Rubber is Gummy/Tacky	Rubber is not fully cured. Press temperature too high.	Check press temperature. Increase mold time Mold @ 307 F Lower time of molding
Rubber Curls	Set up or air cured rubber Excessive molding pressure Press temperature is too high	Rotate stock Store in coolest, driest location Apply pressure to bearer tight only 307 F recommended
Blister/Bubbles or Skips	Press temperature too high or uneven Insufficient dust or talc on rubber Too rapid of a close Original was not made with good sloping shoulders, not allowing trapped air to release	Check for even heating of both platens Re-talc Use a slower close, then open and close the press several times to allow gases to escape Always order engraving with good shoulders for ease of molding
Stamps Not Filled Completely	Insufficient rubber Press temperature too hot Old or partially set-up rubber Insufficient talc	On large solid areas, use rubber closer to overall stamps thickness Check for even heating on platens Check for age, rotate stock Re-talc

Obviously, some of the remedies above will work, some will not. It is critical to experiment as this is not an exact science. Several conclusions from reviewing the above can be made:

The hotter the press temperature used, the more chances for errors occur.

The dust is critical for good molding, it would never hurt to have a small supply on hand.

Simply put dust in an old sock and re-dust the face of the rubber prior to molding.

Proper storage of rubber is critical to providing the longest possible shelf life. If refrigeration is not possible, store in the coolest, driest area away from hot air and sunlight.