

# News Release



## Whiter than white

### **BASF develops a new cleaning version of its melamine resin foam**

BASF has developed a new cleaning version of its Basotect<sup>®</sup> melamine resin foam. The new grade is called Basotect W and it cleans even more efficiently and is whiter than the established version. It is certified to Öko-Tex<sup>®</sup> Standard 100 in product class II, which demonstrates that Basotect W has no adverse health effects when used or processed. This means that no substances that are harmful to one's health are released and absorbed through the skin. The foam has also been tested to Japanese Law 112, one of the most stringent tests for formaldehyde in the world. Unlike other cleaning materials, Basotect W is well below the permissible limits.

Because of its slightly abrasive properties, Basotect W, like the established cleaning grade V 3012, is used as a household cleaning eraser. It is used without additional cleaning agents and works like a soft sandpaper, because, unlike other foams, melamine is as hard as glass, but the fine cell structure provides the product's flexibility. When moistened with water, the foam slides easily, removing heavy dirt on a variety of surfaces such as tiles, ceramic stove tops, ceramics, doors, leather seats and hubcaps. This abrasive quality makes Basotect W a product that is used up like an eraser over the course of time.

### **Basotect and Öko-Tex**

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BASF manufactures the melamine resin foam in the form of blocks for foam converters to process. Features of the material include low density (<10 g/l), good cleaning qualities, excellent sound absorption, a high flame-retardancy and temperature resistance. Öko-Tex Standard 100 is a global testing and certification system for textile raw materials, intermediates and end products at all stages in processing, with the aim of completely eliminating harmful substances. The tests are conducted by authorized, independent textile research and test institutes. The products display the slogan "Confidence in Textiles", together with the test number and institute.

#### **BASF - The Chemical Company.**

BASF Corporation, headquartered in Florham Park, New Jersey, is the North American affiliate of BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, Germany. BASF has approximately 16,000 employees in North America, and had sales of \$13 billion in 2009. For more information about BASF's North American operations, or to sign up to receive news releases by e-mail, visit [www.basf.com/usa](http://www.basf.com/usa).

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics and performance products to agricultural products, fine chemicals and oil and gas. As a reliable partner, BASF creates chemistry to help its customers in virtually all industries to be more successful. With its high-value products and intelligent solutions, BASF plays an important role in finding answers to global challenges, such as climate protection, energy efficiency, nutrition and mobility. BASF posted sales of more than €50 billion in 2009 and had approximately 105,000 employees as of the end of the year. Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).

For further information: [www.basotect.com](http://www.basotect.com).

Note to editorial offices: A press photograph can be found at [www.basf.com/pressphoto-database](http://www.basf.com/pressphoto-database) under the keyword "plastics". In the near future, text and photo will also be available at [www.basf.de/plastics/pressreleases](http://www.basf.de/plastics/pressreleases).