

# Product Data



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## **RECOMMENDED CATALYSTS FOR HK RESEARCH GEL COATS**

We are frequently asked "What is the best catalyst to use with your 100% NPG-Isophthalic Gel Coat?" Users of our clear gel coats for cultured marble, onyx and similar products most often ask this question.

We have emphasized in several bulletins the importance of using the correct catalyst with our HK Research gel coats. This has been made more important by the proliferation of catalyst formulas in recent years as manufacturers of these catalysts attempt to provide their customers with specialized products to meet certain needs. The availability of so many Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide formulations has led to some confusion for gel coat applicators as they try to decide which catalyst will work best for the gel coat they are using.

We have evaluated a number of Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide catalysts over the past several years in an attempt to answer these questions from our customers. We have compiled a list of MEKP catalysts that best meet the criteria we have established which include minimum color change, rapid film cure, reproducibility and long term stability, as well as other properties we felt contributed to better processing and lasting quality. As we learn of changes to a manufacturer's product, we re-evaluate its performance and update our recommendations accordingly.

The list of these acceptable catalysts is rather small, but we feel strongly that following these recommendations will pay dividends in the quality of the gel coat film on your molded component.

We are not saying that the other catalysts are "bad" products. We have just not found them to give the best attainable results with our gel coats, or we lack sufficient user feedback to recommend them. More importantly, we are trying to emphasize that all Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxides are not alike and some products do work better in a given situation. We are confident from our testing that the recommended catalysts shown here do work better with our gel coats, and we strongly urge the fabricator to use them with HK Research gel coats.

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I. Full Strength Catalysts Recommended

Superox 46-702  
Norox MEKP-9H  
Norox MEKP-925H  
Hi-Point 90  
Norox MEKP-9  
Cadox L-50a

II. Catalysts Not Recommended for HK Research Gel Coats

Superox 46-709	Thermocure GC
Superox 46-710	Thermocure 50
Lupersol Delta X-9	Thermocure Fast 50
Lupersol DSW-9	Cadox M-50 (A)
Lupersol DHD-9	
Lupersol DDM-9 or 9*	
Lupersol DDM-30	
Quickset Super	
Quickset Extra	