Molding Defects, Causes, & Corrective Actions

Blister, Blistering

Defect Description

Unintended raised or layered area on the surface of the part

Defect Causes

Tool is running too hot or the heater is malfunctioning

Corrective Action

Test tool heat and eliminate any external sources contributing to heat on the tool, check cooling in area of tool





Possible Molding Defects

Burn Marks, Gas Burn, Air Burn

Defect Description

Black or brown discoloration on material farthest from the mold gate

Defect Causes

Injection speed of material is too high and/or the tool venting is not sufficient

Corrective Action

Slow down the injection speed and/or test venting of tool to achieve proper shot speed and temperature





Possible Molding Defects

Color Streaks, Streaking

Defect Description

Undesired color change in areas of the material

Defect Causes

Desired colorant isn't mixing properly with granules or has run low, revealing natural color

Corrective Action

Check proper mixture rate for colorant and ensure colorant level in system feed is correct





Delamination

Defect Description

Part walls are not solid and form layers of material instead of one solid piece

Defect Causes

Dangerous situation that creates parts with very little strength, usually due to material contamination

Corrective Action

Check material stock for contamination, try with new material source





Possible Molding Defects

Flash, Burrs

Defect Description

Material flows outside of the mold cavity

Defect Causes

Insufficient clamping force, debris on tool mating surfaces, or tool damage

Corrective Action

Inspect tool for damage, clean mating surfaces of molds, and ensure proper clamping force on the mold





Possible Molding Defects

Embedded Contaminates, Embedded Particulates

Defect Description

Undesired color change in areas of the material

Defect Causes

Desired colorant isn't mixing properly with granules or has run low, revealing natural color

Corrective Action

Clean the tool surface and cavity, inspect the barrel/hopper/feeder system for contaminants, check shear heat





Flow Marks, Flow Lines

Defect Description

Material flow creates multiple visible lines and patterns on finished part

Defect Causes

Injection speed of material is too slow and cooling too quickly

Corrective Action

Increase injection speed of material





Possible Molding Defects

Jetting

Defect Description

Turbulent flow of material from gate causes part deformation

Defect Causes

Injection speed is too high, poor overall tool design, poor placement of gate or runner

Corrective Action

Check material injection speed, review design of tool





Possible Molding Defects

Polymer Degradation

Defect Description

Material composition failure in tensile strength, color, shape, etc.

Defect Causes

Exposure of granules to excessive light, heat, water, or chemicals

Corrective Action

Discard poor material, check storage and feeder system for contaminant issues





Sink Marks

Defect Description

Depression created in thicker material zones

Defect Causes

Cooling time is too short, holding time post-injection is too short, or pressure during holding is too low

Corrective Action

Test cooling and holding times post-molding, review proper pressure during molding





Possible Molding Defects

Short Shot, Non-Fill Mold, Short Mold

Defect Description

Incomplete molded part

Defect Causes

Not enough material entering the mold, injection speed of material is too slow, or tool pressure is too low to disperse material correctly

Corrective Action

Increase injection speed of material and test pressure on part during molding





Possible Molding Defects

Splay Marks, Splash Mark, Silver Streaks

Defect Description

Part has circular pattern in material at gate

Defect Causes

Hot gas generated by moisture in the granules due to improper material drying procedure or technique

Corrective Action

Use dry material, review material drying process, review material storage for contamination issues





Stringiness, Stringing

Defect Description

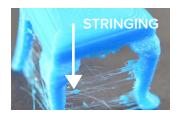
Material from previous shot remains in mold, resulting in string-like appearance in part

Defect Causes

Material temperature at nozzle is too high, gate can't complete shot cleanly

Corrective Action

Reduce material temperature at nozzle





Possible Molding Defects

Voids

Defect Description

Formation of unintended air pocket in molded part

Defect Causes

Holding pressure is incorrect or mold is not correctly centered during forming, causing different wall thicknesses

Corrective Action

Correct holding pressure during material cooling





Possible Molding Defects

Weld Line, Knit Line, Meld Line

Defect Description

Line on completed part where material flow meets

Defect Causes

Material is moving too slowly and cooling too rapidly, forming a line when it meets

Corrective Action

Increase temperature of material and/or mold to achieve appropriate flow





Warping, Twisting Part

Defect Description

Part is deformed and distorted

Defect Causes

Material is too hot and/ or cooling time is too short, lack of cooling around the tool

Corrective Action

Correct cooling time and material temperature, investigate cooling of tool



