



Product Data Sheet

AMBERLYST™ 15WET Polymeric Catalyst

Industrial-grade, Strongly Acidic Catalyst

Description

AMBERLYST™ 15WET Polymeric Catalyst is a strongly acidic, sulfonic acid, macroporous polymeric catalyst based on crosslinked styrene-divinylbenzene copolymers. Its continuous open pore structure and excellent physical, thermal, and chemical stability make it the resin of choice in many applications. It also possesses a greater resistance to oxidants such as chlorine, oxygen, and chromates than most other polymeric resins.

AMBERLYST™ 15WET is used in a wide variety of organic reactions. It has the optimal balance of surface area, acid capacity, activity, and pore diameter to make it the catalyst of choice for etherification (MTBE, ETBE, TAME), esterification, and hydration reactions.

AMBERLYST™ 15WET can be used for processes where cationic impurities or bases have to be removed or recovered from a process liquor. Both the cationic impurities and bases are removed by ionic interactions with its acidic groups. Its excellent resistance against oxidation makes it an exceptional resin in many applications.

AMBERLYST™ 15WET can be used directly in aqueous systems or in organic media after conditioning with a water-miscible solvent.

Applications

- Etherification (MTBE, ETBE, TAME)
- Olefin hydration (TBA)
- Esterification (acetates, acrylates, fatty acid esters)

Typical Properties

Physical Properties

Copolymer	Styrene-divinylbenzene
Matrix	Macroporous
Type	Strong acid cation
Functional Group	Sulfonic acid
Physical Form	Amber, opaque, spherical beads

Nitrogen BET

Surface Area	53 m ² /g
Total Pore Volume	0.40 cc/g
Average Pore Diameter	300 Å

Chemical Properties

Ionic Form as Shipped	H ⁺
Concentration of Acid Sites †	≥ 4.70 eq/kg ≥ 1.80 eq/L
Water Retention Capacity	52 – 57%

Particle Size §

Particle Diameter	600 – 850 µm
Uniformity Coefficient	≤ 1.70
< 355 µm	≤ 1.0%
> 1180 µm	≤ 5.0%

Shrinkage (in solvent)

Methanol	5%
MTBE	9%
Hexane	22%
Dry	37%

Density

Shipping Weight	770 g/L
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† Dry Weight Capacity ≥ 4.70 eq/kg; Total Exchange Capacity (on a water-wet basis) ≥ 1.80 eq/L

§ For additional particle size information, please refer to the [Particle Size Distribution Cross Reference Chart](#) (Form No. 177-01775).

Suggested Operating Conditions

Maximum Operating Temperature	120°C (250°F)	
Bed Depth, min.	1000 mm (3.3 ft)	
Pressure Drop, max.	1 bar (15 psig) across the bed	
Flowrates		
Operating	1 – 40 BV [*] /h (0.125 – 5 gpm/ft ³)	
Linear Hourly Space Velocity (LHSV)	0.5 – 5 h ⁻¹	
Backwash	See Figure 1	
Regeneration	4 – 8 BV/h (0.5 – 1.0 gpm/ft ³)	
Slow Rinse	Regeneration flowrate for 2 BV (15 gal/ft ³)	
Fast Rinse	Operating flowrate for 2 – 4 BV (15 – 30 gal/ft ³)	
Contact Time		
Regeneration	≥ 30 minutes	
Total Rinse Requirement	3 – 5 BV	
Regenerant	HCl	H ₂ SO ₄
Concentration	4 – 10%	1 – 5%
Level	40 – 100 kg/m ³ (2.5 – 6.25 lb/ft ³)	40 – 200 kg/m ³ (2.5 – 12.5 lb/ft ³)

* 1 BV (Bed Volume) = 1 m³ solution per m³ resin or 7.5 gal per ft³ resin

Hydraulic Characteristics

Estimated bed expansion of AMBERLYST™ 15WET Polymeric Catalyst as a function of backwash flowrate and temperature is shown in Figure 1.

Estimated pressure drop for AMBERLYST™ 15WET as a function of service flowrate and temperature is shown in Figure 2. These pressure drop expectations are valid at the start of the service run with clean water and a well-classified bed.

Figure 1: Backwash Expansion

Temperature = 10 – 90°C (50 – 194°F)

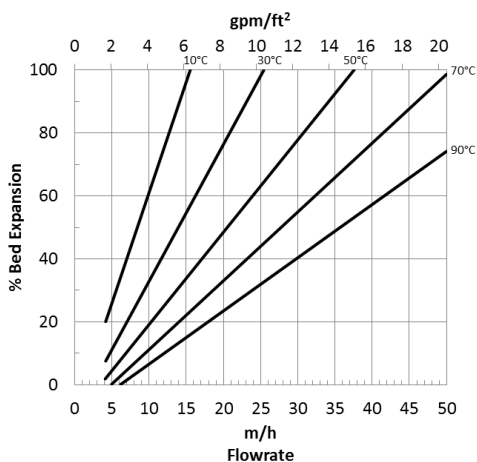
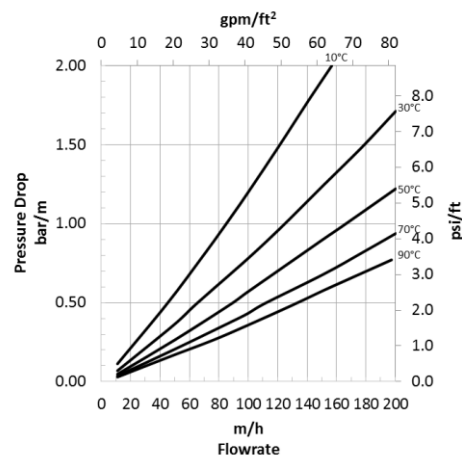


Figure 2: Pressure Drop

Temperature = 10 – 90°C (50 – 194°F)



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Please be aware of the following:

- **WARNING:** Oxidizing agents such as nitric acid attack organic ion exchange resins under certain conditions. This could lead to anything from slight resin degradation to a violent exothermic reaction (explosion). Before using strong oxidizing agents, consult sources knowledgeable in handling such materials.

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