

ANTISTATEX™ – THE STORY BEHIND THE ANTISTATIC ORIGINAL

Ekamant pioneered antistatic sanding technology shortly after dust extraction systems were introduced in the 1970s.



The incentives were as clear to see as the dust that filled the air in all types of sanding situations. Besides creating a very unhealthy environment to work in, the dust was clogging up the machinery and playing havoc with finishing treatments. Of course, extracting out the dust was a major step forward. But the static charge between the abrasive, the sander and the material, made dust cling to everything. Antistatex, the original antistatic abrasive, has turned this problem on its head.

OUR PATENTED TECHNOLOGY WORKS LIKE THIS...

“Due to its graphite treatment, Antistatex™ cancels the static charge that otherwise builds up the moment the sander comes into contact with the work material. This means that instead of sticking to all of the surfaces, the dust particles are released – and easily removed away by the extractor,” explains our Research & Development Manager, Martin Blom. Getting the dust under control in this way has multiple benefits. Application & Solution Development Manager, Mikael Stein, walks us through them:

ON THE SURFACE

“First and foremost, quality goes up because less dust is adhering to the workpiece – even inside the pores of the surface where it otherwise gets trapped. This improves the result of surface treatments such as lacquers and other finishes. And while quality is increased, the number of work pieces that have to be rejected or reworked decreases, which of course translates into lower cost.”



DOWNTIME AND DURABILITY

Mikael continues: “In an ideal world nothing interrupts production during a shift. But when the sanding dust adheres to the belt it becomes ineffective – and has to be replaced. So by releasing the dust, Antistatex stays clean longer, which means less downtime for changing the belts. On top of this, because the abrasive is designed to work freely and efficiently, its lifespan is much longer – further reducing the total cost for the customer.” To which Martin adds: “Even for the machinery, less maintenance and cleaning cut costs. Without the antistatic treatment everything is continually getting blocked-up as the same dust just keeps circulating.”

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Speaking of less dust and increased lifespans, it's easy to imagine the benefits for the people who are operating the machinery. In bigger installations, where extractors are in place, very few workers wear face masks. In these situations the use of Antistatex™ helps to reduce the amount of dust entering their lungs. Then there is the matter of static shocks often experienced by operators while handling the machinery or workpiece. This, Mikael emphasises, “can be very unpleasant.” As an aside, Martin points out that the static electricity is a well-known cause of machinery and factory fires.