ABOUT RAMER

Ramer Ltd is a leading manufacturer of sponge products based in the UK.

The Ramer name is famous for our retail Ramer Sponges and associated bathing products, and was the first to develop a plastic sponge in 1946 with the first year’s stock bought in its entirety by the Elizabeth Arden company. More than this, our high-tech manufacturing facility has been tailoring our specialist, hydrophilic PVA sponge for a wide range of technical products and applications globally.

Ramer was established in 1946, and remains a family business operated by the second generation, and employing a workforce that is dedicated to providing a quality product to our customers.

We are committed to creating what we believe is the best sponge material available, and have invested in research and development, and our manufacturing facilities. This enables us to manufacture or licence Ramerfoam® PVA to organisations around the world.
WHAT IS PVA FOAM/SPONGE?

PVA sponge is a synthetic sponge essentially composed of Polyvinyl Alcohol. It is an open-celled, highly absorbent porous material that wicks aqueous solutions quickly. It is compressible when dry, expandable when wet, has high tensile strength, good elongation and excellent resistance to most chemicals.

PVA sponge is hydrophilic and can hold up to 12 times its dry weight in water. Cell size can be varied depending on the required use; the finer the cell the better the capillary action. The wet sponge can withstand temperatures approaching 70°C and the dry about 100°C.

PVA sponge is effectively inert and will not, in itself, support microbial growth. Wet packed sponge can be treated chemically to inhibit mould and bacterial growth.

Our PVA sponge - made from Ramer® foam - has been manufactured in the UK exclusively by Ramer Ltd since 1946. We were the first company to create and market a commercially viable synthetic sponge.

The interlinked cell structure of Ramer® foam is perfect for any application where absorbency, durability and versatility are key.

PVA requires different handling and processing than other more widely used foams. As we have been manufacturing Ramer® foam for over 60 years we have an unmatched technical expertise to assist our customers in product development.

Ramer® foam can be supplied in a wide range of colours, shapes and pore sizes. Ramer® PVA sponge is the product of a tried and tested manufacturing process which means we are able to offer a bespoke service. All Ramer® foam products are produced at our Devon factory in the UK.
Ramer® has over 60 years of knowledge and experience in supplying PVA foam solutions across a wide range of market sectors. Because each customer has a specific technical profile we offer a bespoke service to customers seeking design and development solutions.

The first step is to understand your design brief. Please contact us and we can arrange a meeting to discuss your requirements.

Ramer® is the only UK manufacturer of PVA foam. We pride ourselves on providing excellent and impartial advice during the design and development process. We take your design from concept to reality.

Once a design concept has been agreed we can manufacture initial prototypes which can be tested and approved before you commit to any tooling and production runs.

Working within a wide variety of industry sectors gives us a wealth of experience that we can share with you.

Ramer® operates a sampling service, backed by an experienced team who are at your disposal. They will guide you through the selection processes and in turn ensure that every aspect of your specification is met.
VIRTUAL INFORMATION PACK

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Benefits of RAMER® PVA Foam

Strong chemical and abrasion resistance
Ramer® PVA products go through stringent quality control. Resistant to most commercial and industrial chemicals, our sponge is a popular choice in medical and cleanroom environments.

Biocompatible
Ramer® PVA sponge was first documented as being used for medical purposes back in 1959 under the brand name of Prosthex®, when it was used by surgeons to repair rectal prolapse. More recently Ramer® foam products have been used for a wide variety of medical applications.

UV resistant
Ramer® foam is unlike other sponge products on the market. UV does not break down the chemical bonds and shorten the lifespan of the product. We still have samples of stock produced in 1948 that are in the same condition as when they came off the production line.

Available in a wide range of pore sizes and water holding capacity
See Pore Properties profile matrix on next page.

Colour
Ramer® foam is naturally brilliant white and by introducing coloured pigments Ramer is able to offer a wide range of standard colours. We can match most colour shades to suit individual customer requirements, subject to a minimum order quantity. All Ramer® products are colourfast up to temperatures of 40°C. All medical and cleanroom products are sold in white only.

Benefits at a glance
- Super Soft Sponge
- Strong chemical and abrasion resistance
- Non linting
- Non abrasive
- Latex Free
- Non Phthalate
- Biocompatible
- UV resistant
- Withstanding temperatures of up to 70°C when wet and 100°C dry without deformation
- Extremely durable
- Available in a wide range of pore sizes
- Available in a huge variety of colours
- Colourfast
## Pore Properties

### Pore Size (microns μ)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pore Size (microns μ)</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 - 300 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 - 400 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 - 600 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 - 800 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 - 1200 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 - 1500 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1500 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Relative Attributes

#### Density

- **Light (L)**
- **Medium (M)**
- **Standard (S)**
- **Heavy (H)**
- **Dense (D)**

#### Pore Size / (Texture)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pore Size / (Texture)</th>
<th>Ultrafine (U)</th>
<th>Extrafine (X)</th>
<th>Fine (F)</th>
<th>Regular (R)</th>
<th>Open (O)</th>
<th>Coarse (C)</th>
<th>Airy (A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 - 300 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 - 400 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 - 600 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 - 800 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 - 1200 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 - 1500 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1500 PPC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Technical Specifications

- Pores per (Linear) Centimetre

### Relative Attributes

- **Smoothness**: 10 = Best, 1 = Least Best
- **Solids penetration**: 1 = Best, 10 = Least Best
- **Solids removal capacity**: 1 = Best, 10 = Least Best
- **Water adsorption rate (ie drying speed)**: 1 = Best, 10 = Least Best
- **Capillary action**: 1 = Best, 10 = Least Best
- **Water release speed (self-draining)**: 1 = Best, 10 = Least Best
- **Abrasion/tear resistance**: 1 = Best, 10 = Least Best
- **Squeezability (ease of water expulsion)**: 1 = Best, 10 = Least Best
- **Non-particulating**: 1 = Best, 10 = Least Best

* Pores per (Linear) Centimetre
APPLICATIONS AND CASE STUDIES

Clean room cleaning products
Lint free, dust trapping; ideal for wiping surfaces and cleaning sensitive areas such as optical and electronic equipment. The minute pores on the sponge trap surface particles. Our sponges can quickly absorb huge amounts of water.

Household-cleaning sponges
Hypoallergenic, non-abrasive and durable. PVA mops and wipes are a popular and cost-effective alternative to traditional cleaning applicators. Compatible with most cleaning chemicals in the home as well as medical and clean room environments.

Car cleaning and wax applicator sponges
Wax on wax off! PVA sponge absorbs only water, trapping it inside the sponge cell structure, leaving the buffing or waxing product on the surface for minimal waste. Cell size can be adjusted in the manufacturing process to best fit the application in question. Ramer®foam is also non-linting, non-scratching and mechanically strong.

Synthetic alternative to Chamois leather
Popular for many years as an animal-friendly alternative to Chamois leather, the Ramer® Eco Cloth has similar properties to Chamois, removing excess water and polishing to achieve a streak-free finish.

Beauty sponges including exfoliating, mud and mask removal products
Ramer® has been supplying cosmetic sponges to world-famous names in the beauty industry for over 60 years. Extremely soft when wet, Ramer®foam sponges are hypoallergenic – ideal for soft and sensitive skin.

Personal bathing sponges
Ramer® was the first company to manufacture commercially viable synthetic bathroom sponges back in 1946. We are the only UK manufacturer of PVA sponges, supplying major supermarkets and selling direct to the public worldwide. (Link to selling website)

Component parts for industrial use and medical applications
The unique properties of Ramer®foam have helped businesses grow in many different industrial sectors such as Medical, Aerospace, Automotive and Electrical. Ramer® is truly a one-stop-shop for all PVA sponge and foam applications.
FAQS

Do you supply to the public?
While this site is dedicated B2B we have a retail outlet (www.ramersponges.com) where you can purchase a wide range of Bathroom, Cosmetic and Household sponges.

Can I visit your factory?
Please call 01404 46757 to arrange a meeting

Can it be sterilised?
PVA sponge is temperature sensitive so we recommend using antimicrobial solutions, gamma radiation or ethylene oxide gas.

What colour is your product?
Ramer® foam PVA sponge in basic form is brilliant white, however we have a standard range of vivid and pastel shades and subject to minimum order quantities we produce customer specific colours.

Can you offer Research and design services with PVA sponge?
Yes we can – Please call us on 01404 46757 to discuss your requirements.

Is Ramer® foam recyclable?
We have been working for some time to find an effective way of recycling our sponge waste. One aspect of this has taken us down the route of hydroponics. Tests have been carried out at an agricultural research facility using our sponge material to aid plant growth. Ramer® foam was found to produce vigorous growth in tomato plants.

What makes Ramer® foam different from the rest?
Ramer was the first and only company to manufacture PVA sponge in the UK. Continuously refining and improving our product, we have been at the forefront of PVA sponge design in the medical, engineering and OEM sectors for nearly 70 years. During this period we also have been supplying our range of bathroom and cosmetic sponges to major converters and retailers both in the UK and worldwide.

What are your opening hours?
Our office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Excepting UK public holidays

Can PVA sponge be made permanently soft
No, PVA sponge will only remain silky soft when in the presence of water. When the sponge dries it becomes rigid and hard, on re-wetting it will regain original softness. Certain soluble additives can give limited flexibility in the dry state.

Why do you call it Ramer® foam?
We want our customers to know they are dealing with a British manufacturing company with long established roots.

Does it contain latex or phthalates?
Absolutely not – just PVA
CONTACT

Telephone
0044 (0) 1404 46757

Address
Ramer Ltd
Devonshire Road
Honiton
Devon
EX141SD