Silicone additives for laundry care applications
Silicones have been used in laundry products for more than 25 years to provide effective foam control in consumer washing machines. In the textile industry, silicone products have been used for even longer to enhance garment comfort, garment protection and ease of care.

For laundry care applications, Dow offers a wide variety of silicone additives, including:

- Silicone foam control agents for detergents used in traditional and high-efficiency (HE) washing machines
- Silicone softening agents for fabric softeners

Through the DOWSIL™ and XIAMETER™ brands, our silicone antifoams and softening agents provide real solutions for both manufacturers and consumers. Silicones can add value and lower the cost of formulations because they are versatile, provide long-lasting performance and have low use levels — replacing larger volumes of other materials.

**Silicone antifoams and softening agents from Dow add performance...and value**

- Control foam
- Enhance feel
- Compact formulations
Foam control agents

The DOWSIL™ and XIAMETER™ brands offer outstanding foam control products. During the manufacture of detergents — and during their use by the consumer or the professional — these products can address foam in three ways:

• Control (foam control agents)
• Prevent (antifoams)
• Knock down (defoamers)

Process applications

Antifoams help maximize process efficiency by ensuring that unwanted foam does not slow or shut down the manufacture of detergents. That’s why Dow offers antifoams to:

• Help all types of liquid processing
• Densify laundry powders, by de-airing the wet slurry in the spray-drying tower process
• Facilitate all types of bottle-filling operations

Consumer applications

Antifoams are also critical in many consumer laundry applications. For example, steady control of foam in a washing machine is desired, rather than its complete elimination or prevention. Proper foam control is essential in both traditional agitator washers with high water volumes and HE washers with low water volumes — with different demands for each application.

Consumers also have long-standing perceptions about foam levels. Too little foam, for example, may leave the consumer questioning the detergent’s cleaning efficiency. Too much foam can interfere with washing machine operation.

Cost-effective solutions

Thanks to their long-lasting performance and low use levels (typically 0.1 to 0.4%), silicone antifoams are recognized as a cost-effective solution for foam control in detergents. They offer efficient and robust foam control over a broad range of temperatures and wash conditions.

Ideal for liquid and powdered detergents

Silicone antifoam compounds and ready-to-use emulsions can be stabilized in liquid detergents. In addition, granulated antifoams can be easily incorporated into laundry powder and tablet detergents using a simple dry mixing process.

For powdered detergents, silicones must be carefully dispersed and protected in a granule form to achieve superior foam performance. Granulated antifoams are stable in storage under extreme conditions of temperature and humidity, as demonstrated in Figure 1. Furthermore, granulated silicones do not cake and are free-flowing, so they are easily incorporated into your formulations.

Figure 1: Powdered antifoam gives good protection of antifoam performance

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The performance of silicones

Silicones provide many benefits for fabric care. Some of the general properties that make silicones an excellent fit include:

• Liquid, even at high molecular weight
• Low surface tension
• High spreading ability
• High hydrophobicity
• High gas permeation
• High refractive index

These silicone properties translate into specific fabric care and laundry care benefits, such as:

• Excellent lubricity
• Softness
• Film forming
• Breathability or barrier for volatiles
• Transparency, gloss and color intensity
• Flexibility versus rigidity
Silicone antifoams

Compounds
Silicone antifoam compounds are 100% active ingredients.

Self-emulsifying compound
To aid their dispersion in aqueous media, combinations of silicone antifoam compounds and non-aqueous dispersion delivery systems are also available. XIAMETER™ ACP-0544 Antifoam Compound is a water-dispersible 100% silicone antifoam compound containing hydrophobic silica, silicone surfactants and PDMS.

Powdered antifoam
Silicone powdered antifoam is a granulated preparation of the antifoam compound. Encapsulated antifoam (EAF) is made of 100% detergent active ingredients.

Concentrates
Silicone antifoam concentrates are active at low addition levels. They are easy to use in liquid detergent and fabric softener formulas and provide fast foam breaking during the rinse stage.

Emulsions
Silicone antifoam emulsions are non-ionic aqueous emulsions of silicone antifoam compounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Active content (%)</th>
<th>Viscosity (cP)</th>
<th>Specific gravity</th>
<th>Kosher certified</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XIAMETER™ ACP-1500 Antifoam Compound</td>
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<td>XIAMETER™ ACP-3302 Antifoam Compound</td>
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<td>XIAMETER™ ACP-3425 Antifoam Compound</td>
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<td>3100</td>
<td>1.03</td>
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</table>

U.S./Europe only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Active content (%)</th>
<th>Viscosity (cP)</th>
<th>Specific gravity</th>
<th>Kosher certified</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOWSIL™ AF-8014 Antifoam</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOWSIL™ AC-8066 Antifoam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Specification writers: These values are not intended for use in preparing specifications. Please contact your local DOWSIL™ or XIAMETER™ brand sales representative prior to writing specifications on these products.
## Antifoams for consumer benefits

### Application type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Powdered detergent</th>
<th>Liquid detergent</th>
<th>Fabric softener</th>
<th>Hard surface cleaner</th>
<th>Other liquid systems</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **XIAMETER™ APW-4248** Powdered Antifoam
- **XIAMETER™ APW-4253** Powdered Antifoam
- **XIAMETER™ APW-4311** Powdered Antifoam
- **XIAMETER™ APW-4412** Powdered Antifoam

- **XIAMETER™ AFE-0020** Antifoam Emulsion
- **XIAMETER™ AFE-0310** Antifoam Emulsion
- **XIAMETER™ AFE-0700** Antifoam Emulsion
- **XIAMETER™ AFE-0110** Antifoam Emulsion
- **XIAMETER™ AFE-0700** Antifoam Emulsion
- **XIAMETER™ AFE-1520** Antifoam Emulsion
- **XIAMETER™ AFE-1410** Antifoam Emulsion
- **XIAMETER™ AFE-1430** Antifoam Emulsion

### Process type

- **Powdered detergent**
- **Liquid detergent**
- **Fabric softener**
- **Hard surface cleaner**
- **Other liquid systems**

- **Non-structured**
- **Structured**
- **Concentrated/Non-aqueous**

- **Dilution stable**
- **pH**
- **Kosher certified**

### Antifoams as process aids

#### Process type

- **Liquid**
- **Powder slurry deaeration**

#### Deaeration

- **Dilution stable**
- **pH**
- **Kosher certified**

  - **<24H**
  - **pH = 2 to 12**
  - **XIAMETER™ ACP-0544** Antifoam Compound
  - **XIAMETER™ ACP-3425** Antifoam Compound
  - **XIAMETER™ ACP-1500** Antifoam Compound
  - **XIAMETER™ ACP-1500** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ ACP-1510** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ ACP-1520** Antifoam Emulsion

  - **pH = 2 to 7**
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-0200** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-0310** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-0400** Antifoam Emulsion

  - **pH = 7 to 12**
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-0110** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-0310** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-0400** Antifoam Emulsion

- **Bottle filling**
- **Mfg. waste water and recycling**

  - **<24H**
  - **pH = 2 to 12**
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-0020** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-0110** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-1410** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-1430** Antifoam Emulsion
  - **XIAMETER™ AFE-1520** Antifoam Emulsion

**U.S./Europe only**
**Material not available in U.S**
Silicone softening agents

Used in textile manufacturing and in fabric care, various silicone additives increase the softness of fabric, reduce wrinkles, make fabric easier to iron and help retain the fabric’s shape. Softeners also can improve color retention, offer stain protection and increase the mechanical strength of a fabric, helping it last longer.

Traditional fabric softeners use organic quaternary ammonium compounds, known as “quats.” When using silicone softener additives, formulators can remove part of the quat and add the silicone softening agent in lower amounts.

For example, in a formulation with 15% quat, 5% of that can be replaced with only 2% of the silicone agent. Typically less silicone is needed — often making the change cost-neutral.

By replacing other compounds with silicones — or by adding silicones to existing formulations (Figure 2) — this allows formulators to modify or enhance sensory and performance benefits of:

- Silkeness and softness
- Volume enhancement
- Ease of ironing
- Enhanced fiber strength
- Tear resistance

Textile manufacturers use silicones to provide conditioning benefits to their fabrics. These same benefits can also be delivered in the consumer’s laundry room. Ever-demanding consumers have less time for clothing care, but want their clothes to look and feel better directly from the dryer and as new as possible after repeated washings. Silicone technology can deliver the advanced sensory and performance benefits to consumer laundry products to help meet those expectations.

Emulsions

Silicone softening emulsions are used in rinse cycle fabric softener formulations. The benefits can include significant improvements in anti-wrinkle results, ease of ironing, ease of wrinkle removal and fabric water absorbency when compared with conventional fabric softeners.

### Fluids

Specialized silicone fluids are used for premium hydrophilic and specialty textile finishes. While traditional softeners generally cause fabrics to become extremely hydrophobic, softeners by Dow provide durable, wash-resistant performance with virtually no yellowing.

### Table: Typical product properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Viscosity (cP)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XIAMETER™ OFX-8600 Fluid</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>Durable hydrophilic, low yellowing organosilicone softener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIAMETER™ OFX-8800 Fluid</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>Novel organofunctional silicone copolymer designed for the formulation of premium textile finishes</td>
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**Figure 2: The addition of silicones enhances softening performance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panelists’ scores</th>
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*Material not available in U.S.*
Want to see how our silicone additives will work in your application? Scan this code or go to consumer.dow.com to request a sample of one or more of the products in this selection guide.

Need more information? Dow has extensive experience in assessing antifoams and softening agents. Leverage our expertise to help you determine which additives are best suited to your application and how much you need. Simply contact us at consumer.dow.com to find out more.
How can we help you today?

When you need industry-leading innovation, Dow can help. Solutions by Dow are dedicated to meeting your needs for speciality materials, collaborative problem solving and innovation support. Learn how we can help you bring performance and cost effectiveness to your products, at consumer.dow.com.

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