

SILICONES & HEALTH

Did you know?



You may know silicones as the material of your favourite baking mould or swimming goggles. But did you know silicones contribute to our health and well-being?

When it comes to health care, we want the best for ourselves and our families. We want the reassurance that the tools used by health care professionals are safe, clean and dependable. Health care professionals want that too and more.

A SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS



Medical devices



Dental bridges



Scar gel



Pacemakers



Infant care



Medical tubing



1.7 MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS EUROPE ARE EMPLOYED IN SECTORS THAT ARE RELATED TO SILICONE PRODUCTS.

Silicones are part of a bigger value chain that create jobs and enable a better quality of life for us.

A SNAPSHOT OF HOW SILICONES HELP IMPROVE OUR LIVES



MEDICAL DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Silicone properties

- Reduces patient risk
- Enables life-enhancing devices
- Facilitates innovation, e.g. pacemakers and insulin pumps

Helps reduce pain

- Lubricates syringe operation
- Eases removal of dressings

Improves quality of life

- Used in prosthetics and artificial joints



You will find more information on the socio-economic contribution of silicones in our report available at silicones.eu



THEY AID HYGIENE.

- Silicones are resistant to bacteria, easy to sterilise and are excellent for sensitive applications such as respiratory tubing and infant care products.
- Silicones are used in pacemakers as they are hypoallergenic, they do not react with other materials and insulate the wires.
- Silicones are well tolerated by the human skin so they can facilitate healing, improve the appearance of existing scars and reduce discomfort.

THEY'RE LIFE-CHANGING.

- Silicones are ideal for external prosthetics and artificial joints as they offer exceptional cushioning and provide maximum comfort making them the perfect material to use.
- Silicones resist bacterial growth and help reduce the risk of infections.

THEY INSPIRE INNOVATION.

- Silicones play an active role in innovation as they are used in artificial hearts and electronic prostheses.
- €400 million is invested annually on research and development which is almost two times greater than the estimated proportion of GDP spent on research and development in the OECD countries.
- Over 50 years of scientific research has been dedicated to assess the safety of silicones to consumers, workers and the environment.

THEY REDUCE PAIN.

- Silicones reduce pain and increase the speed of treatment when used as lubricants on syringes.
- Silicone dressings minimise pain on removal, reducing anxiety and promoting faster healing.

By using products made with silicones, you generate on average
9 TIMES LESS GREENHOUSE GASES *than were emitted during*
manufacturing and disposal of that product.



PUT SIMPLY, SILICONES MAKE THINGS WORK BETTER!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

This is just a snapshot of some of the applications in which silicones are used. For more information on silicones in other health care applications, the following website will help you find what you need:

WWW.SILICONES.EU

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This factsheet is one of a series developed by silicone producers in Europe to highlight some interesting and surprising facts about the use of these innovative materials and how they contribute to Europe's goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.