



What is Santoprene?

Santoprene is a registered trademark for a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE). As the name might suggest, Santoprene was originally registered by Monsanto Company in 1977, and is now owned by Exxon Mobil. Santoprene elastomer possesses the same levels of flexibility and durability that are commonly found with natural rubber compounds. Because of the longer life of Santoprene elastomer in both extreme hot and cold environments (-80°F to 275°F), the material is sometimes a better choice than PVC. Warmers and Blast Chillers would be examples. Santoprene is resistant to harsh chemicals, grease, and

oil, making it an excellent choice for cook lines.

There are down sides to Santoprene. A Santoprene gasket is stiffer than a PVC gasket. Older units require a more flexible gasket to compensate for imperfections. Santoprene does not “give” quickly, and takes more time to seat. Due to the higher temperature range, applying heat to help seat a gasket is not an option. Another downside is that Santoprene material is more expensive, and the fabrication is more difficult. There are a limited variety of profiles available in Santoprene.



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