

Hi there Carers

Congratulations on your purchase. Macropod and mammal teats are quite relaxing and inexpensive to make. Latex Rubber purchases or enquiries for distributors in your state may be made to the following numbers:

1. Qld – Fiber Glass International, (Nuplex), Wacol 4076 – 07 32713944
2. Qld - Fiber Glass International, (Nuplex), Labrador 4215 – 07 5563 7771
3. Qld – Fiber Glass International, (Nuplex), Cairns 4871 – 07 4035 2126
4. Qld – Fiber Glass International, (Nuplex), Townsville 4810 - 07 47283085
5. NSW - Fiber Glass International, (Nuplex), Brookvale 2100 – 02 9938 7222
6. NSW – FMS, Seven Hills, 2147 – 02 9624 2811
7. NSW – FMS, Gosford, 2250 – 02 4324 7015
8. NSW – FMS, Newcastle, 2761 – 02 4969 7504
9. NSW - Ballina Fibreglass Supplies, 9 Piper Dr, Ballina, NSW 2478 - (02) 6681 4288
10. ACT – ACT Fibre Glass Supplies, 84 Wollongong St, Fyshwick ACT 2609 – (02) 6280 6197
11. Vic - Fiber Glass International, (Nuplex), Springvale 3171 – 03 95505656
12. Vic – Solid Solutions, British United Industries, 19 Ardena Court, PO Box 142 East Bentleigh 3165 - 03 9579 2044
13. SA - Fiber Glass International, (Nuplex), Greenfields 5107 – 08 8182 0400
14. SA – Adelaide Moulding & Casting Supplies, offer on-line ordering, <http://www.amcsupplies.com.au> . Phone (08) 8277 7278
15. WA - Fiber Glass International, (Nuplex), Canningvale 6155 – 08 9455 1972
16. Tas – The Fibreglass Shop, 202-204 Argyle Street, Hobart 7000 - 03 6234 2689

Latex is also widely used in the fibreglass industry so if you have any fibreglass (surf boards, panel beaters or similar in your area ask them as well). It is also used in the ceramics industry/pottery so check there for supplies. I have been advised by a couple of people that have bought latex that they have had trouble with the Clark Rubber Latex as it is too runny and expensive. Latex needs to be the consistency of thickened cream. If it is the consistency of milk it is not suitable for teat making as it drips off the mould before it can dry. If you are unsure if the latex you are sourcing is OK just give me a call.

I buy my latex in 4 kg pails (about 250 teats) and this costs me \$34.00. In some states (ie: Qld), Australia Post won't send latex, other states it is no problem. If this is the case and you need it sent, use a courier, usually \$15.00 max. This adds to the cost of the teats however if a few of you get together and get larger quantities of latex to split up, it is still a huge saving. You can get up to 10 litre pails and the bigger the quantity the more economical the teats are to make. You can get the price down to 0.6c.

Now this is what you do: Make sure you work in a well ventilated room. Latex has strong fumes.

1. Collect one milk bottle top for each mould and make a smallish hole in the middle. Slip the bottle top over the metal stem of the mould face up. This catches any latex run off that will clog up the holes in your stand.
2. Rub cornflour well over your mould, this helps to get the latex off at the end
3. Pour some of your latex in a long slim jar. Don't fill up the jar and a jar without a lip is better. Angle the jar about 75% and roll your mould in the latex so it is well covered and insert in your stand. Keep going until all moulds are 'dipped'. Don't worry if the latex does not look even it will balance itself out. The remaining latex in your dipping jar pour into a separate jar that you are able to seal well and once you have enough for a dip tip back into your dipping jar separately. I use a flexible bit of plastic (cake mix scraper) to get as much of the latex out of the dipping jar as I can). If you mix your air exposed latex with your fresh latex the end of your latex will be lumpy.
4. The latex in your dipping jar will dry up in a couple of hours as will your moulds
5. Once dry dip again **NO CORNFLOUR** this time
6. I usually dip two times for very young pinkies, three times as a rule and four times for the larger Eastern grey joeys over 5 kg and larger wallabies as they often have great suction. Some animals though hate the four dipped teats so you will have to be flexible here.
7. Once you have finished your dips and your moulds are dry again, rub well with cornflour.
8. Cut the latex that has dripped down with sharp scissors around the base of the wood on your mould and slip off the bottle cap. Then roll back the latex from the mould gently.
9. Keep rolling back and voila you have made your first teat. In the beginning you will be all fingers and get latex everywhere but very quickly that won't be the case.
10. Cut the raggedy bottom of your teats off just below the ridge that grips the bottle rim. Store in a plastic bag in the freezer. Storing in the freezer will keep your teats fresh indefinitely and the latex will not deteriorate.
11. Get the latex out of your milk bottle tops with a skewer when dry and start again.

TIP: If you use your moulds constantly, varnishing them will protect the wood from deteriorating due to the moisture in the latex

Need help? Contact details below