



**RAMERFOAM®**  
TECHNOLOGY

## INFORMATION PACK

### ABOUT RAMER

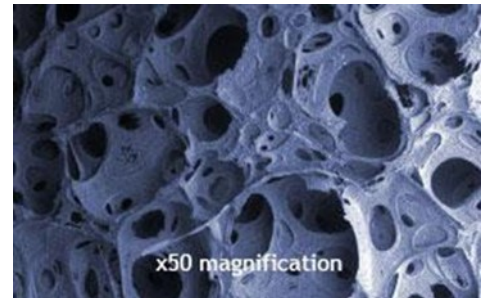
It all began in 1945 when our founder, Reginald Boswell began the process which evolved into Ramerfoam® material and our exceptionally soft and gentle bathing & beauty sponges.

The path to developing these personal care sponges was an unusual one. During WWII scientists had created a strong and lightweight alternative to balsa wood which was used at the time in the production of frames for the Mosquito fighter planes. Despite being very strong and lightweight, it had one large drawback that it became beautifully soft on contact with water- not quite what you want for an aircraft wing.

Since 1946 the Ramer name has become synonymous with the manufacture of high-quality sponges for a wide variety of personal care uses. The first production line was housed in a gym in Pimlico, London and the first year's entire stock was bought by the Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics Company.

We also supply Ramerfoam® to other manufacturers, both in the UK and abroad, for conversion into components for a wide variety of products ranging from cigar humidors to de-icing systems on the wings of small aircraft.

Today, Ramer Sponges is still a family company and the UK's leading manufacturer of super-absorbent and super soft, sponge products for beauty and body-care. We have supplied customers in the UK and worldwide for over seventy years. All Ramer sponges and other Ramerfoam® products are manufactured in the UK at our purpose-built facility in Devon, nestling the rolling hills of the Otter Valley.





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### WHAT IS PVA SPONGE?

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

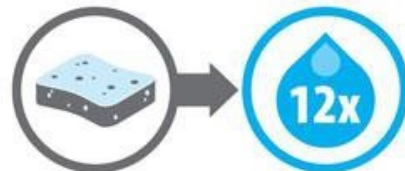
PVA sponge is hydrophilic and can hold up to 12 times its dry weight in water. Cell size can be varied depending on the required use, the finer the cell the better the capillary action. The hydrated sponge can withstand temperatures approaching 70°C and about 100°C when dry.

The communicating cell structure of PVA sponge is ideal for any application where absorbency, durability and versatility are key.

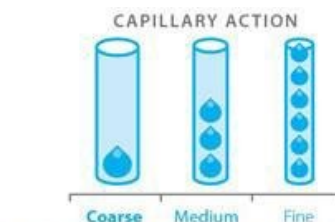
PVA sponge is inert after sterilisation. For storage purposes wet packed sponge can be treated with a biocide solution to inhibit mould and bacterial growth.

PVA sponge requires different handling and processing techniques compared to other more widely used sponge materials. With over 70 years experience, Ramer Ltd has the technical expertise to assist customers with product design and development.

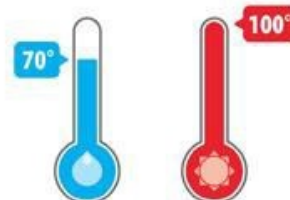
Ramer has manufactured Ramerfoam® since 1949 and was the first company to create and market a commercially viable synthetic sponge in the UK. It is produced by a tried and tested manufacturing process which enables us to offer a bespoke service. Ramerfoam® can be supplied in a wide range of colours, shapes and cell sizes. All our products are produced in the UK at our factory in Devon.



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 capillary action.



The wet sponge withstands temperatures nearing 70°C and the dry about 100°C.



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### DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

Ramer Ltd, has over 70 years of knowledge and experience in supplying PVA material across a wide range of sectors. As each customer has a specific technical requirement, we offer a bespoke service to help customers seeking design and development solutions.

The first step is to understand your design and whether PVA will be a suitable material for your project. Contact our technical department on [info@ramer.ltd.uk](mailto:info@ramer.ltd.uk) to discuss your requirements. We also offer a sample service so you can choose the best pore size for your product.

Once a concept has been agreed we can either manufacture a simple two dimensional prototype or for more complex designs supply basic product for your conversion.





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## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

### Benefits of Ramerfoam® PVA Sponge Material

#### Strong chemical and abrasion resistance

Ramer Ltd PVA products go through stringent quality control. Resistant to most commercial and industrial chemicals, our sponge is a popular choice by designers looking for a versatile sponge material.

#### Medical Applications

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

#### UV resistant

Ramerfoam® 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 1949 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 the next page.

#### Colour

Ramerfoam® is naturally brilliant white and by introducing organic pigments Ramer can offer a wide range of standard colours. We can also match most colour shades to suit individual customer requirements, subject to a minimum order quantity. All Ramer products are machine washable with recommended temperatures of 40°C. Medical and cleanroom products are sold in white only.

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### Benefits at a glance

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







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# APPLICATIONS AND CASE STUDIES

### Clean room cleaning products

Ramer products are lint free and dust trapping making them ideal for wiping surfaces and cleaning sensitive areas such as optical and electronic equipment. The minute pores on the sponge trap surface particles.

### Household-cleaning sponges

Hypoallergenic, non-abrasive and durable. PVA 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 and Cycle Cleaning

PVA sponge absorbs only water, holding it inside the sponge cell structure, leaving the car or cycle cleaning product on the surface for minimal waste. Oil and grease resistant

### 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

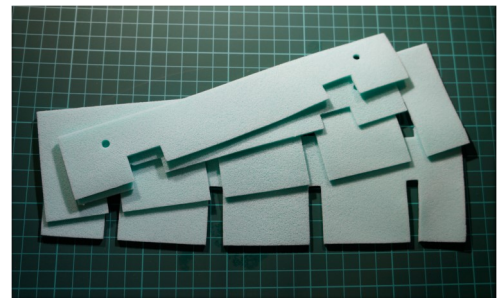
Ramer® has been supplying cosmetic sponges to world-famous names in the beauty industry for over 70 years. Extremely soft when wet, Ramerfoam® sponges are hypoallergenic ideal for soft and sensitive skin.

### 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. (<https://www.ramersponges.com>)

### Component parts for industrial use and medical applications

The unique properties of Ramerfoam® have helped businesses grow in many different industrial sectors such as Medical, Aerospace, Automotive and Electrical Engineering.





## **FAQ**

This site is dedicated B2B. We have a retail website, [www.ramersponges.com](http://www.ramersponges.com), where you can purchase our Personal Care sponges.

### **Can your product be sterilized?**

PVA sponge is temperature sensitive, so we recommend using antimicrobial solution, gamma radiation or ethylene oxide gas.

### **What colour is your sponge material?**

Ramerfoam® PVA sponge in basic form is brilliant white, however, subject to minimum order quantities, we can manufacture products in customer specific colours.

### **Can you help us with Research & Design?**

With over 70 years' experience we have unparalleled knowledge of how the material performs. Please call us to discuss your requirements.

### **Is Ramerfoam® material recyclable?**

We have been working for some time to find an effective way of recycling our sponge waste. Tests have been carried out at an agricultural research facility using our sponge material to aid plant growth and it was found to produce vigorous growth in tomato plants.

### **What makes Ramerfoam® different from the rest?**

Ramer Ltd is the first and only company to produce PVA sponge in the UK. Continuously refining and improving our product we have been at the forefront of manufacturing PVA sponge material for conversion by medical, engineering and OEM sectors for over 70 years.

### **What are your opening hours?**

We are open from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holiday.

### **Can PVA Sponge be made permanently soft?**

No, PVA will only remain soft when in the presence of water. When the sponge dries it becomes rigid and hard, on rewetting it will regain its original softness. Certain soluble additives can give limited flexibility in the dry state.

### **Does the material contain latex or phthalates?**

Absolutely not.

### **Why do you call it Ramerfoam®?**

We want our customers to know that we are a British manufacturing company with long established roots.



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## **CONTACT**

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## PORE PROPERTIES

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