



Superhydrophobic Natural Polymers

Guest Editors:

Dr. Michael Ioelovich

Designer Energy LTD, 2 Bergman
Str, Rehovot 7670504, Israel

Prof. Dr. Oleg L. Figovsky

Israeli Association of Inventors,
3a Shimkinst, Haifa, Israel

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Message from the Guest Editors

Natural polymers, such as plant polymers (lignin, cellulose, and other polysaccharides), animal polymers (wool, keratin, etc.), biopolymers (proteins, RNA, DNA), and polymers from sea animals and algae (chitin, chitosan, agar, etc.), are widespread on Earth and have great scientific and practical importance. Unfortunately, these polymers are hydrophilic, which limits their use in such application fields as the creation of waterproof and vaporproof materials and the production of hydrophobic/superhydrophobic fillers and reinforcements that are compatible with hydrophobic composites of polymers and with hydrophobic compositions of coatings, paints, adhesives, and other hydrophobic materials. There are several methods for converting natural hydrophilic polymers into hydrophobic ones and, even better, superhydrophobic ones. The physical methods include coating of hydrophilic polymers with hydrophobic/superhydrophobic melts or latexes. The chemical methods include introduction of hydrophobic/superhydrophobic groups and graft polymerization.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Alexander Böker

Lehrstuhl für Polymermaterialien
und Polymertechnologie,
University of Potsdam, 14476
Potsdam-Golm, Germany

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Polymers Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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