

Methyl Cellulose

Methyl cellulose can be used in a wide range of applications in conservation. It is suitable for consolidation of paint layers, as an adhesive for paper, and for producing gels, adhesive meshes, or foams. When added to paints and plasters, methyl celluloses function as thickeners or drying retardants. The dissolved methyl cellulose can be applied with a brush, sprayed, or injected, and is known as an ageing-resistant and reversible material.

Methyl cellulose is generally soluble in cold water. For dissolving it, we recommend heating 30% of the water required for the mixture and stirring the necessary amount of methyl cellulose into the warm water. This helps the powder disperse more easily without forming lumps. Then add the remaining 70% cold water and allow the paste to rest until the methyl cellulose has fully dissolved.

63671 Methocel™ A4M

Methocel A4M is a fast-dissolving, medium-viscosity methylcellulose suitable for numerous applications. Owing to its higher viscosity compared to Benecel A4C—3500–5600 mPas (2% in water at 20°C)—this methylcellulose is particularly well suited for the preparation of adhesives and gels. Methocel A4M dries to a matte finish, does not cause color changes to the treated surface, and is highly reversible.

63682 Benecel™ A4C, Methyl Cellulose

Benecel A4C is a highly pure methylcellulose with a viscosity of 320–480 mPas (2% in water at 20°C) and is therefore less viscous than Methocel A4M. This can be advantageous for the consolidation of paint layers. Benecel A4C has good pigment-binding properties and is also suitable for producing reversible, matte paint layers. Benecel A4C develops a strongly wetting, surface-active effect, which is beneficial for the production of foams.