

**PAPER INSTEAD OF PETROCHEMICAL BASED SUBSTRATES:**

At Micrex we are huge fans of nonwovens. With their wide range of different substrate solutions, nonwovens are our substrate of choice for most applications. Recently however, we have been re-exploring using Microcreped papers in a variety of applications either alone or combined in composite structure. With the current emphasis on sustainability, what could be greener than using recycled paper in an application which before relied exclusively on petrochemical based substrates?



In terms of substrate design, paper has been optimized over hundreds of years. In fact, paper creped using traditional wet creping technology has been around since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Microcreped paper is different however. Since Microcreping is a dry process, the paper will be softer, with a less rigid stretch. Less energy is needed to produce the crepe, and there are no chemicals to be disposed of. For the right applications, this can translate into cost savings of up to 50%.

For those who have spent most of their careers outside the paper industry, it is easy to forget the range of physical properties which can be present in a cellulosic sheet. The picture below shows three sheets of paper several minutes after water is applied. You can see that one sheet absorbs the water, the second absorbs a small amount and the third actually repels the water.



For applications where protection, bulk, cushioning, conforming or channeling is desired --- a layer of Microcreped recycled paper can be both the low cost and green solution. For more visit <http://www.micrex.com/paper.htm>

**NEW CAPABILITY AT MICREX:**

Our new 2.2 meter Micrex®/Microcreper™ line is now operational at Micrex.



This machine is based upon our large main roll architecture and allows Micrex to perform commercial trials on this more robust machine configuration for the first time. This new capability along with other new development allows us to expand the use of the Micrex technology further into the realm of recycled papers and cellulosic composites. For more about our capabilities, see <http://www.micrex.com/development.htm>.

As always, if there is anything we can do to help your company better utilize the Micrex Process to impart softness, bulk, stretch, hand improvement, absorbency, drape and decorative effects in paper, textiles, films and nonwovens, please contact us.

For previous newsletters please see: <http://www.micrex.com/newsletter.htm>.

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