

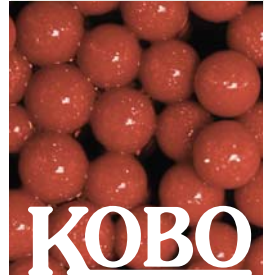
Kobo Products

The Powder & Dispersion Specialist

Kobo has been providing innovative, technology-based raw materials to the cosmetic industry since 1987. Kobo's diverse product line includes Microspheres and Microsphere Complexes, Surface Treated Pigments & Powders, UV Pigments (TiO₂, ZnO & Transparent Iron Oxides), UV Balance Powders, Attenuation Grade, Non-Nano and Pigmentary Dispersions, KTZ® Pearlescent Pigments, Natural Ingredients, Fibers, Minerals, Film Formers, Delivery Systems, Silicone Products, Specialties and Custom Formulations.

Kobo offers three manufacturing locations throughout the world including its corporate headquarters in South Plainfield, NJ; Kobo SAS (Labège/Toulouse, France); and Kobo Dispatek (Utsunomiya, Japan). Kobo is represented by independent agents all over the world.

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Kobo Product Line

Microspheres and Microsphere Complexes

Microspheres are discrete spherical particles ranging in average size from 1 to 50 microns. Because of their size and shape, microspheres offer a ball bearing effect which will impart finished products with an elegant silky texture, increased payoff, and enhanced slip. Microspheres are also able to scatter light to diminish the look of fine lines on the skin, while letting enough light through so the look on the skin is natural. This phenomenon is known as "Soft Focus Effect" or "Optical Blurring". Microsphere Complexes are powders made by bonding various substrates such as talc or silica to polymeric microspheres using Kobo's patented technology of ITT treatment. These powders have incredible texture and high oil absorption.

Treated Pigments & Powders

Powders and pigments may be modified to make their surface water-repellent (hydrophobic), oil-dispersible (lipophilic), both lipophobic and hydrophobic (perfluoro treatments), or water-dispersible (hydrophilic). Other objectives of surface treating are to reduce surface activity, improve skin compatibility, physical or chemical stability and enhance feel and pigment loading in formulas. Various treatments are available including Kobo's patented technologies: ITT (Isopropyl Titanium Triisostearate); TTB (Triethoxysilylethyl Polydimethylsiloxylethyl Dimethicone) and NJE (Jojoba Esters).

UV Pigments (TiO₂, ZnO, Non-Nano & Transparent Iron Oxides)

Attenuation grade and non-nano, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide and transparent iron oxides are available. They may contain inorganic and organic surface treatments to improve their dispersion in formulas, and improve physical and chemical ability.

UV Balance Powders & Dispersions

The UV Balance concept was developed in order to ensure protection of the skin from both UVB and UVA rays. This concept suggests that for every 3 units of UVB protection there is also 1 unit of UVA protection being provided in an SPF product. When working with inorganic sunscreen ingredients such as micronized titanium dioxide or zinc oxide it is important to find the right combination of particle sizes in order to yield the 3:1 ratio for protection. In order to achieve these results, Kobo has developed both UV Balance Powders and dispersions, as well as recommended use levels for specific combinations of dispersions.

Non-Nano & Attenuation Grade TiO₂ & ZnO Dispersions

As a leader in dispersion technology, Kobo specializes in custom formulation and grinding of TiO₂ and ZnO. Kobo has mastered the art of manipulating particle size which allows the dispersion to become extremely transparent on the skin and offer effective UVA & UVB protection. Dispersions of TiO₂ and ZnO with various particle sizes and surface treatments in a wide range of bases are available, including the newest vehicles: Non-D5 Volatiles, Natural Oils and Mixed Solvents.

Pigmentary Grade Dispersions

Pigmentary grade titanium dioxides, iron oxides, and organic lakes are widely used for color cosmetics and have primary particle sizes greater than 0.2 microns. These pigments tend to aggregate in formulas. Color strength, gloss and opacity are related to the particle size of the aggregates. Theoretically, the highest color intensity is obtained when the dispersion particle size (in formulas) is closest to its primary particle size.

KTZ® Pearlescent Pigments

KTZ® Pearls are Special Effect Pigments based on a mica substrate coated with titanium dioxide and/or iron oxide to create pearlescent effects, interference colors and angle-related color travel. Kobo offers a large selection of KTZ® Pearls: white, interference, two-tone, spectral majesty, earth tone, multicolor, and perpetual pigments. The entire range of KTZ® Pearls is available with surface treatments to decrease the surface activity, maximize water repellency and allow for easy formulation in esters, mineral oils and silicone fluids.

Natural Ingredients

Kobo offers a range of natural origin based products including microspheres, fibers, surface treatments, scrubbing beads and dispersions for UV protection. Kobo's patent pending Jojoba Ester Treatment (NJE Treatment) process enables pigment particles to be rendered hydrophobic. Jojoba Esters have similar properties to the human sebum, which help to balance the sebum on the skin. They can contribute to moisturizing dry skin while easing sebum production in oily skin. Due to the natural origin of this treatment, it is ideal for use in formulas containing natural claims. NJE treated pigments and powders offer a creamy feel and a good affinity to the skin. They are recommended for use in powders due to their good pressability, as well as emulsions and hot pours. ECOCERT products are also available.

Fibers

Kobo offers a variety of natural and synthetic fibers in different lengths, thickness and shapes. They can be used to promote texturizing, soft focus, lengthening and volumizing effects in finished products. Cell-U-lash fibers are made of cellulose, a natural polymer that varies in length from 20 to 750 microns; they are hydrophilic and disperse easily in the final stage of an emulsion. These fibers are an excellent choice for finished products containing natural ingredients. Synthetic fibers made from Nylon, Polypropylene and Colored Nylon are available in many sizes and shapes. Polyethylene Terephthalate fibers are available and can be used for soft focus.

Minerals

Kobo minerals are used in a variety of applications, including emulsions, hot pours and powders found in skin care, color cosmetics and toiletry products. Many are considered fillers which are widely used in shade matching to "fill in" areas where pigments are not used. They can contribute to a finished product by adding bulking properties, an enhanced skin feel, luster, shimmer, shine and often times sheen while helping to fill in the lines on the skin so they appear less visible. Kobo's product line of minerals includes sericite, mica, talc and gemstone materials. All surface treatments are available to further enhance their properties.

Film Formers

Water and Oil soluble polymers help to enhance adhesion and substantivity of the cosmetic formulation to the skin, lashes, hair or nails. Therefore, they improve water resistance, rub-resistance, and stability of the film, impart gloss and help suspend pigments. They have no odor and excellent color stability, which makes them an ideal substitute for rosins and their counterparts.

Delivery Systems

Kobo delivery systems are innovative and patented systems composed of various ingredients. The sub-micron, ultra stable Glycosphere is adapted to protect and deliver active molecules. Softspheres are visible, colored beads used to deliver active ingredients and decorate transparent formulations. Skin Care Patches are available in different compositions, sizes and shapes.

Silicone Products

Silicone products provide lubricity, spreading, even texture, better coverage, and a soft, smooth and velvety feel. They also offer substantivity and durability for long lasting products, as well as moisturization without a heavy, greasy feel.

Specialties

Kobo offers a wide range of specialty ingredients for the benefit of personal care formulations, including dry binders, gellants and scrubbing beads.

Kobo also specializes in creating custom Dispersion formulations.

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