

Laboratory Technology / highpreactor

Reactor liners made from PTFE guarantee optimal resistance to chemicals

Chemical reactions, which take place owing to higher temperature and pressure requirements ranging up to 260 °C / 200 bars, are the applications for which Berghof reactors are designed. The special feature of Berghof reactors is their unique, thick PTFE liner. All the parts, which come into contact with liquid media, are either made entirely from PTFE or they are coated with a fluoropolymer.



Corrosion protection included

A PTFE liner, which is several millimetres thick, protects the stainless steel reactor efficiently against corrosion, even against such corrosive media as acids and alkali. PTFE is distinguished by its excellent resistance to almost all chemicals, which makes it possible to do without many expensive special alloys, such as hastelloy. This significantly reduces the acquisition costs.

The risk of possible cross-contaminations is easier to control with PTFE liners. Metallic catalysers, such as Pt, Rh, Raney Nickel etc adhere to steel reactors and are very difficult to remove. In the following experiments the question keeps cropping up if the effects observed are really caused by the change of catalyser, contamination effects or catalyst poisoning. This problem is elegantly evaded by reserving a PTFE liner for each type of catalyser.

Tip: The PTFE liners can also be used as practical storage vessels for reactive solutions.

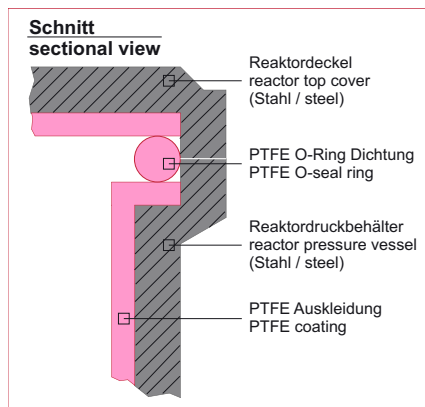
Universal usage

Berghof reactors can be used for all purposes; all of the parts that come into contact with liquid phase are protected against chemical attack by means of fluoropolymers. The liner is hermetically sealed and clings to the inside of the reactor wall like a skin. Hence it differs significantly from the PTFE liners, which are placed open into the reactor. The entire liner comprises a removable PTFE insert, the cover lining, the dip pipe and agitator sheaths and the PTFE sealing rings. All of these parts can be removed and remounted easily for cleaning purposes. The thickness of the walls of the liner depends on the reactor volume and ranges between 1.6 and 7.4 mm. The lining of the cover is at least 3.7 mm thick. The maximum operating pressure of the reactors is 200 bars and the maximum temperature for continuous operation is 230 °C. For a short time (i.e. max. 60 min) the reactor can also be heated up to 260 °C. Even higher temperatures and longer heating phases above 260°C damage the PTFE liner.

Owing to these high operating temperatures, conventional PTFE components become “distorted”; but Berghof components do not. These PTFE components have no preferred direction because, thanks to the isostatic compression-moulding method developed by Berghof have no preferred direction and distinguish themselves by the same expansion coefficients in all directions in space. A “distortion” of the parts, even at a higher temperature and pressure is thus excluded.

Pros PTFE liners

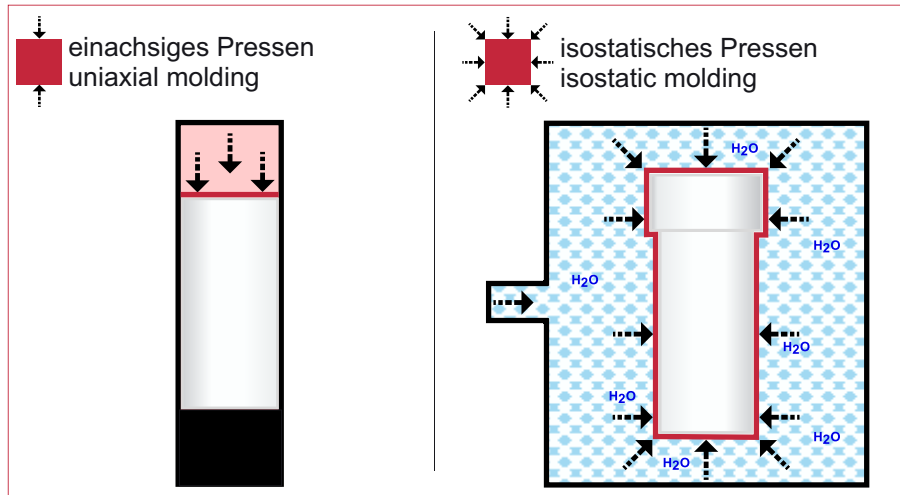
- High tempering strength, briefly up to +260 °C
- Pressure-tight up to 200 bars
- Universal resistance to chemicals, even to aggressive acids and alkali
- Non-corrosive
- Free of contamination



Isostatisches Pressen

Beim konventionellen, einachsigen Pressverfahren wird das Material in der Regel in einer Form mit einem Stempel vertikal verdichtet. Eine Verdichtung quer zur Pressrichtung, in der Horizontalen, erfolgt nicht.

Beim Isostatischen Pressverfahren hingegen wirkt die Kraft über ein hydraulisches Medium gleichmäßig und gleichzeitig aus allen Raumrichtungen auf das Material ein und verdichtet es homogen. Dadurch wird eine optimale Verdichtung erzielt, woraus geringste Porosität, eine verbesserte Oberflächenstruktur sowie höchste Zug- und Druckfestigkeit resultieren. Vorzugsrichtungen werden nicht ausgebildet und isotrope Materialeigenschaften bleiben erhalten. Insbesondere die Zug- und Druckfestigkeit des Materials ist in allen Raumrichtungen gleichmäßig gegeben.



Qualitätsvorteile durch Isostatisches Pressen

Die Vorteile des Isostatischen Pressens lassen sich mittels REM-Aufnahmen unter entsprechender Vergrößerung verdeutlichen.

Im einachsigen gepressten PTFE erkennt man bei 100-facher Vergrößerung noch die Granulat-Partikel des Ausgangsmaterials.

Isostatisch gepresstes PTFE weist demgegenüber eine deutlich gleichmäßigere Oberflächenstruktur auf. Sie entspricht in etwa der von einachsigen gepresstem TFM™PTFE. Mit isostatisch gepresstem TFM™PTFE erzielt man dagegen eine deutlich feinere und glattere Struktur.

Bei 2.500-facher Vergrößerung werden in einachsigen gepresstem Material zudem Fehlstellen sichtbar die in isostatisch gepresstem TFM™PTFE nicht mehr auftreten.

Material	PTFE		TFM™PTFE	
	einachsigen	isostatisch	einachsigen	isostatisch
Presstechnik				
Dichte (g/cm³)		2,15	2,16	2,16
Zugfestigkeit (N/mm²)	38,9	41,3	44,0	45,1
Reißdehnung (%)	289	333	484	489
REM Aufnahme 100-fach				
REM Aufnahme 2500-fach				