

MASKING TIP SHEET

Protecting a part during e-coat and powder application

Problem. An automotive supplier was using an e-coat and powder-coat process, and needed a quick solution to a masking problem. The company had been using a standard, off-the-shelf washer cap to mask a shock absorber rod from excess powder deposition. Although the company modified the washer cap by cutting it for a tight fit, the washer cap still didn't adequately seal the rod. The company identified the following requirements:

- They required a fast, easy-to-install solution that would seal the shock rod from e-coat as well as powder.
- They needed to mask the underside of the shock ab-



sorber rod eyelet from e-coat and powder.

- They needed a custom mask; however, the mask itself would have to survive many cycles to provide a reasonable return on investment (ROI).

Solution. A custom-molded mask was developed to seal tightly against the shock rod shaft and mask the underside of the shock rod eyelet. The mask

could be installed in seconds and provided a liquid-tight seal during e-coat application and the protection the part needed during powder application.

The mask was custom-molded with a high-heat silicone compound that provides exceptional set resistance, little shrinkage, and excellent durability. The mask is flexible enough to be installed quickly around the shaft of the shock absorber rod, and its properties allow it to be used many times, affording exceptional ROI to the manufacturer. **PC**

Thanks to Shercon, Santa Fe Springs, Calif.; 562/946-8555 [www.shercon.com].