

Eponymous Kapton

Kapton has become a proprietary eponym... a brand name which has taken on a more general meaning, going beyond the brand. *Hoover*, for example, is a brand of vacuum cleaner, yet the word is used today to refer to vacuum cleaners of any brand. *Spam*, a product and trademark of Hormel Foods Corp for its tinned smoked ham and pork, has taken on a completely different meaning: unsolicited commercial e-mail.

Kapton® is a trademark of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, and refers to their brand of polyimide film. It has more than 35 years of proven performance as a flexible material in applications involving very high (400°C) or very low (-269°C) temperature extremes. It is used in a wide variety of applications such as substrates for flexible printed circuits, transformer and capacitor insulation and bar code labels. *Kapton* polyimide film has been the basis of our [high temperature masking tapes](#) for over 20 years.

However, in recent times, the demand for *Kapton* has substantially increased, primarily in the rapid growth of flexible circuit applications in electronic devices. I think it is fair to say that there have been supply pressures.

Happily, other manufacturers have been making *polyimide films* for some years. In order to secure our adhesive tape business against price and delivery problems, we have changed our polyimide film to one which is not *Kapton*. We did extensive testing prior to this switch, and still retain our proven high performance! We do not believe that our customers will be able to tell the difference.

The [data sheet](#) has changed to reflect this; but even we will call it [Kapton tape](#) from time to time. That's what happens with proprietary eponyms!

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