

MODERN PLASTICS

January 2011

WORLDWIDE

THE GLOBAL PLASTICS MAGAZINE

plasticstoday.com/mpw

Baby steps in bioplastics

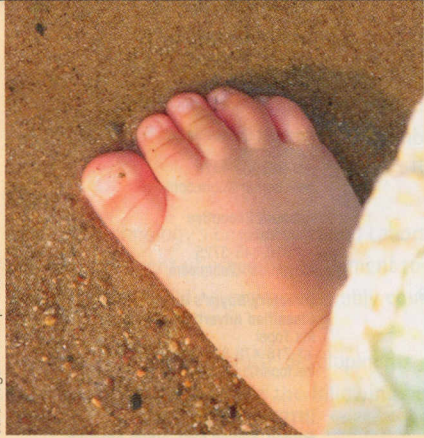
Less noise, more
movement as bio-based
resins get real

Xten's green journey:
Sorting hype from results

Eye on Your Markets debuts
with Medical, Packaging,
and Automotive

Molder makes its own
biomaterial





Julie Hagan/Stockphoto.com

ON THE COVER

28 **Much ado about bioplastics**

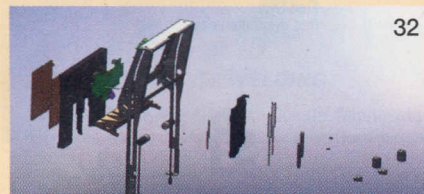
The performance of bio-based materials is starting to catch up with the "green" marketing hype surrounding them.



12



14



32

COLUMNS

12 **Modern Executive**

An "Xten-sive" look at life as an American molder, Chapter 4: A year of slashing waste

The final installment in this series following Xten Industries reveals what worked, what didn't, and what's up next for the Wisconsin molder.

PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

14 **Processing Trends**

Preventive maintenance: Replace a seal, save a \$1 million project

Injection molding: Patented tech boosts natural fiber content

Extrusion: Need LDPE for film clarity or improved processability?

Not any more

Eye on Auxiliaries: Dryers

18 **Material Thoughts**

The latest materials developments in resins, compounds, and additives.

22 **Product Watch**

New technology and business developments around the world, plus **Focus on Auxiliary Equipment: Dryers.**

Focus on
Auxiliary
Equipment:
Dryers



25

EYE ON YOUR MARKETS

32 **Market-specific reports**

Medical: DFMA helps medical OEM save plenty

Rigid packaging: Plastic bottle recycling rises even as plastic bottle usage drops

Automotive: Trelleborg becomes first-time WIT user for new plastic brake pedal

Flexible packaging: Opinion: Starving an industry



37

SPOTLIGHT

42 **Old-school molder making big splash with new material**

Consumer goods processor Proper takes on bioplastic development.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 Contact MPW | 38 Classifieds |
| 6 Web exclusives | 40 Calendar of Events |
| 9 Letter from the editor | 40 Advertiser index |
| 10 First Look: News & Analysis | |