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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE FORMATION OF HYDROPHOBIC SURFACES

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to the application of a coating to a substrate in which the coating includes a polymer material and the coating is selectively fluorinated and/or cured to improve the liquid repellance of the same. The invention also provides for the selective fluorination and/or curing of selected areas of the coating thus, when completed, providing a coating which has regions of improved liquid repellance with respect to the remaining regions and which remaining regions may be utilised as liquid collection

#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interna Application No PCT/up 03/01257

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B05D3/04 B05D B05D7/24 B05D3/10 B05D3/14 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B05D Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. χ US 4 898 775 A (OKA JOJI ET AL) 1-10.6 February 1990 (1990-02-06) 12-17. 22,26 column 3, line 3-12; claims 1,2 23-25. Υ 27,28 Α EP 0 834 352 A (CIBA GEIGY AG) Υ 23-25. 8 April 1998 (1998-04-08) 27,28 claims 11,22,29 US 3 544 790 A (BROWN MARTIN J) Υ 24 1 December 1970 (1970-12-01) claim 8 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Χ χ ° Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed \*&\* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 30 September 2003 13/10/2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Bjola, B Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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