

Brazing, Forming, Plastics



Brazing in annealing box

The furnaces shown in this catalog can be used for various heat treatment processes. Nabertherm has developed interesting solutions for the processes described below as examples:

Brazing

In general, when speaking of brazing we have to distinguish between soft-soldering, brazing and high-temperature brazing. This involves a thermal process for forming substance-to-substance bonds and material coatings during which a liquid phase is generated by the melting of the solder. Based on their melting temperatures, the solder processes are classified as follows:

Soft-solders: $T_{liq} < 450\text{ °C}$

Brazing: $T_{liq} > 450\text{ °C} < 900\text{ °C}$

High-temperature brazing: $T_{liq} > 900\text{ °C}$



Hot-wall retort furnace to 1100 °C

Beside the right selection of the solder, the flux if necessary, and ensuring that the surfaces are clean, the choice of the right brazing furnace is also key to the process. In addition to the actual brazing process, Nabertherm has furnaces for the preparation process in their range such as for metallizing ceramics in preparation for brazing ceramic-to-metal bonds.

The following furnace concepts are available for brazing:

- Brazing in an annealing box in the air circulation chamber furnace up to 850 °C in a protective gas atmosphere
- Brazing in an annealing box in a chamber furnace up to 1100 °C under a protective gas atmosphere
- Brazing in a hot-wall retort furnace NR/NRA series under protective gases or reaction gas up to 1100 °C
- Brazing in a cold-wall retort furnace VHT series under protective gases, reaction gases or under vacuum up to 2200 °C
- Brazing in a salt bath up to 1000 °C salt bath temperature
- Brazing or metallizing in a tube furnace up to 1800 °C under protective gases, reaction gases or in a vacuum up to 1400 °C (see separate Advanced Materials catalog)



N 6080/13 S with door-in-door function, isolating transformer and vibration dampers

In the Nabertherm Test Center in Lilienthal, Germany, a range of sample furnaces is available for customers testing applications which is the best approach to define the right furnace for a specific application.

Pre-Heating for Hot Forming

For traditional hot forming processes such as forging or die forming the piece must first be heated to a defined temperature. From the manufacture of individual parts to serial production, from thin metal sheets to components which are formed in the course of multiple passes – Nabertherm offers a broad range of furnaces and special solutions for these processes.

If, for example, only the ends of long components need to be heated, the furnace can be fitted with closable openings in the door to avoid any heat losses. To protect the operator, an isolating transformer is used which safely conducts away the electrical currents in case of touching the heating elements.

If the furnace is used near a forging hammer which causes strong vibrations, vibration dampers can be installed to separate the furnace from these frequencies. The needs of continuous forging processes are met by appropriate furnace models such as rotary hearth furnaces and continuous furnaces. The advantage of the rotary hearth furnace is its compact size and the charging/discharging of the work piece at one position.

If the task is to form sheet steel, for example in the automotive industry, the furnace needs a large width and depth in relation to its height. For easy charging, the furnaces are provided with a lift door and can, if necessary, be fitted with a charge support adapted for use with the charging stacker.



N 1760/S for pre-heating sheet metal steel with charge support



DH 2500/S on rails to shuttle between two forging stations

Tempering, Curing, Vulcanization and Degassing of Plastics, Rubber, Silicone, and Fiber Composite Materials

Many plastics and fiber composite materials must be heat-treated for product improvement or to ensure that they have the required product properties. In most cases, chamber dryers or ovens with air circulation are used for the respective process. The following examples outline the processes which these furnaces can perform.

PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene)

One application is the heat treatment of PTFE. This process can be used to improve the adhesive properties, the mixture hardness or the sliding properties of the coating. In most cases, chamber dryers are used which, depending on the type of plastic, may or may not include safety technology based on EN 1539.

Silicone

One reason why silicone is tempered is to reduce the amount of silicone oil in the silicone to a certain percentage, i.e. to drive it out, in order to meet relevant food regulations. During the tempering process the silicone oil is vented out of the furnace chamber by continuous air exchange. To optimize the temperature uniformity in the furnace chamber, the fresh air supply is pre-heated. Depending on the furnace size, a heat-recovery system with heat exchangers can result in significant energy savings and pay for itself in just a short time.

Parts are prevented from sticking together by keeping them moving in a rotating rack in the oven.

Carbon Composite Materials

These days, carbon composite materials are used in many industries such as automotive, aerospace, wind power, agriculture, etc. Different materials and manufacturing processes require different heat-treatment processes for curing composite materials.

Some of the processes are done in autoclaves. Other materials are heat-treated in chamber dryers or ovens with air circulation. In this case, the composite materials are frequently evacuated in vacuum bags. For this purpose, the furnace is equipped with suitable connections for the evacuation of the air bags.

Pages 6/7 contain a description of which Nabertherm furnace ranges are suitable for tempering and curing of plastics.



Silicone tempering furnace with tightly welded inner box and rotating rack for the charge.



The openings for the vacuum and measurement connections of an air circulation chamber furnace



Chamber dryer KTR 2000 for silicone tempering



Drawer system for charging the furnace on several levels.