

Common Plastic and uses

Due to their relatively low cost, ease of manufacture, versatility, and imperviousness to water, plastic are used in an enormous and expanding range of products, from paper clips to spaceships. They have already displaced many traditional material, such as wood, stone, horn and bone, leather, paper, metal, glass and ceramic, in most of their former uses.

Technical Name and ISO Code	USES
• Polyester (PES)	Fibers, textiles
• Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)	Carbonated drinks bottles, peanut butter jars, plastic film, microwavable packaging.
• Polyethylene (PE)	Wide range of inexpensive uses including supermarket bags, plastic bottles.
• High-density polyethylene (HDPE)	Detergent bottles, milk jugs, and molded plastic cases
• Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	Plumbing pipes and guttering, shower curtains, window frames, flooring.
• Polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC)	Food packaging.
• Low-density polyethylene (LDPE)	Outdoor furniture, siding, floor tiles, shower curtains, clamshell packaging.
• Polypropylene (PP)	Bottle caps, drinking straws, yogurt containers, appliances, car fenders (bumpers), plastic pressure pipe systems.
• Polystyrene (PS)	Packaging foam/"peanuts", food containers, plastic tableware, disposable cups, plates, cutlery, CD and cassette boxes.
• High impact polystyrene (HIPS)	Refrigerator liners, food packaging, vending cups.
• Polyamides (PA) (Nylons)	Fibers, toothbrush bristles, tubing, fishing line, low strength machine parts: under-the-hood car engine parts or gun frames.
• Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS)	Electronic equipment cases (e.g., computer monitors, printers, keyboards), drainage pipe.
• Polyethylene/Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (PE/ABS)	A slippery blend of PE and ABS used in low-duty dry bearings.
• Polycarbonate (PC)	Compact discs, eyeglasses, riot shields, security windows, traffic lights, lenses.
• Polycarbonate/Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (PC/ABS)	A blend of PC and ABS that creates a stronger plastic. Used in car interior and exterior parts, and mobile phone bodies.
• Polyurethanes (PU)	Cushioning foams, thermal insulation foams, surface coatings, printing rollers.