

OTHER PLASTIC FACTS

Common plastics and their typical uses

- o Polyethylene (PE) wide range of uses, very inexpensive
- o Polypropylene (PP) food containers, appliances
- o Polystyrene (PS) packaging foam, food containers, disposable cups, plates and cutlery
- o Polyethylene terephthalate (PETE) beverage containers
- o Polyamide (PA) (Nylon) fibers, toothbrush bristles, fishing line
- o Polyester fibres, textiles
- o Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plumbing pipes, flooring
- o Polycarbonate (PC) compact discs, eyeglasses
- o Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) electronic equipment cases (e.g., computer monitors, printers, keyboards)
- o Polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC) (Saran) food packaging

Special purpose plastics

- o Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) (Teflon) heat resistant, low-friction coatings, used in things like frying pans and water slides
- o Polyurethane insulation foam, upholstery foam
- o Bakelite insulating parts in electrical fixtures (it is a thermosetting plastic, a.k.a. phenol formaldehyde or phenolic resin, that can be moulded by heat and pressure when mixed with a filler-like wood flour or can be cast in its unfilled liquid form.)
- o Polylactic acid a biodegradable, thermoplastic, aliphatic polyester derived from lactic acid which in turn can be made by fermentation of various agricultural products such as corn starch
- o "Teflon", which could be deposited on metal surfaces as a scratchproof and corrosion-resistant, low-friction protective coating and to make the breathable fabric "Gore-Tex", which can be used to make wet weather and hiking clothing and tents
- o Earl Tupper's invented Tupperware®, a complete line of sealable polyethylene food containers and thin-film plastic wrap to help keep food fresh.
- o Formica®, a plastic laminate that was used to surface furniture and cabinetry particularly in kitchens as it did not absorb and could be easily cleaned of stains from food or grease
- o Polyurethane foam was used to fill mattresses
- o Styrofoam is used to line ice coolers, make float toys like boogie boards and support packaging in boxes for TVs, DVDs, computers etc
- o Kevlar an extremely strong synthetic fibre is best known for its use in bullet-proof vests and combat helmets. Amazingly the inventors, Du Pont, had to release press releases to deny rumours that the recipe for Kevlar came from space aliens

[This material is based on the entry on www.wikipedia.org/2006]

FACTS

