

Technical guide for use of different plasticware products

Physical properties & chemical resistance of plastics

Polypropylene, PP

- Translucent rigid polymer
- Temperature range -20 to +135°C
- Autoclavable at 121°C
- Good to excellent chemical resistance
- Resistant to fatigue, making it tough
- Typically used for beakers, bottles, cylinders, funnels, jugs, etc.



Polytetrafluoroethylene, PTFE

- Opaque rigid polymer
- Wide temperature range -200 to +260°C
- Autoclavable at 121°C
- Unrivalled resistance to almost all chemicals
- Extremely low friction coefficient
- Typically used for EISCO stopcocks in burettes



Low Density Polyethylene, LDPE

- Translucent flexible polymer
- Narrow temperature range of -50 to +80°C
- Not autoclavable at 121°C
- Good to excellent chemical resistance
- Robust and virtually unbreakable
- Typically used for wash bottles



Polymethylmethacrylate, Acrylic (PMMA)

- Transparent rigid polymer
- Narrow temperature range -60 to +50°C
- Not autoclavable at 121°C
- Moderate chemical resistance
- Very tough and high clarity
- Typically used for radiation shields



High Density Polyethylene, HDPE

- Translucent rigid polymer
- Broad temperature range of -100 to +120°C
- Not autoclavable at 121°C
- Good to excellent chemical resistance
- High tensile strength making it very tough
- Typically used for bottles



Polystyrene, PS

- Transparent rigid polymer
- Narrow temperature range -40 to +90°C
- Not autoclavable at 121°C
- Moderate chemical resistance
- Brittle yet has excellent clarity
- Typically used for container ware



Polymethylpentene, PMP (TPX)

- Transparent rigid polymer
- Broad temperature range -180 to +145°C
- Autoclavable at 121°C
- Good to excellent chemical resistance
- Has a low density and a high clarity
- Typically used for beakers and cylinders



Polycarbonate, PC

- Transparent rigid polymer
- Broad temperature range -135 to +135°C
- Autoclavable at 121°C
- Moderate chemical resistance
- High impact strength
- Typically used for safety shields

