



All About Plastics

Characteristics of Common Plastics

Plastic Type	Name	Properties	Density Range	Common Uses
	Polyethylene Terephthalate	Tough, rigid, shatter-resistant, softens if heated	1.38-1.39 g/mL	Soda, water, juice, and cooking oil bottles
	High Density Polyethylene	Semi-rigid, tough, flexible	0.95-0.97 g/mL	Milk and water jugs, bleach bottles
	Polyvinyl Chloride	Strong, semi-rigid, glossy	1.16-1.35 g/mL	Detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, shrink wrap, pipes
	Low Density Polyethylene	Flexible, not crinkly, moisture-proof	0.92-0.94g/mL	Garbage bags, sandwich bags, 6-pack rings
	Polypropylene	Non-glossy, semi-rigid	0.90-0.91 g/mL	Yogurt cups, margarine tubs, screw-on lids/caps
	Polystyrene	Often brittle, sometimes glossy, often has strong chemical reactions	1.05-1.07 g/mL	Styrofoam, egg cartons, packing pellets, take-out containers