
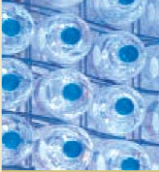















## **PLASTICS** *- Materials for Our Future*

- Plastics are one of the most **resource efficient** and **versatile** materials available to society.
- Plastics make a significant contribution to the goals of **sustainable development**:
  - Social progress**: plastics provide affordable products giving more people access to higher standards of living, healthcare and information.
  - Economic development**: the plastics industry chain in Australia adds value to society. It employs more than 40,000 people and generates sales in excess of nine billion dollars a year.
  - Environmental protection**: plastics help save resources – fossil fuels and energy. Plastic products also save water and preserve food.
- Plastics consume only a tiny fraction – **just 4%** – of the world's **oil**, as feedstock.
- Using plastic products **saves energy**
  - 100kg of plastic parts in cars reduce oil consumption by about 12 million tonnes each year in Europe, reducing CO2 emissions by 30 million tonnes a year.
  - light weighting reduces plastics packaging for consumer goods – giving an estimated reduction in material use of 28% over the past 10 years
  - without plastics, packaging weights could increase by as much as 400%, production and energy costs could double and material wastage increase by 150%
- Plastics **protect our food**
  - trays, bags, films and seals extend shelf life and prevent tampering
  - plastics are only 16% of packaging by weight yet protect more than 50% of consumer goods
- **Renewable energies** rely on plastics (solar panels, wind turbines.)
- Plastics are **too valuable to waste** – this includes end-of-life. After serving a useful purpose, plastics can either be recycled or used as an alternative fuel. Plastic waste has a calorific value at least equal to coal and with lower CO2 emissions.
- **Responsible use** – The Australian plastics industry takes an active role in managing its products and how they interact with people and the environment.
- More than one billion people in the world lack access to safe water. Plastics can **save and distribute water** economically, reliably and safely.
- **Plastics make our lives safer**: Airbags, seatbelts, baby seats, bike helmets, life jackets and medical devices are just some examples of life-saving products made of plastic.

## PLASTICS - Materials For Our Future

 <b>PET</b>	Polyethylene Terephthalate <b>PET</b>	Beverage bottles Food packaging Clothing Geo-textiles	
 <b>HDPE</b>	High Density Polyethylene <b>HDPE</b>	Milk bottles Freezer bags Milk crates Oil bottles	
 <b>V</b>	Polyvinyl Chloride <b>PVC</b>	Blood bags Plumbing pipe Electrical cable Cordial bottles	
 <b>LDPE</b>	Low Density Polyethylene <b>LDPE</b> Linear: <b>LLDPE</b>	Water tanks Squeeze bottles Irrigation pipe Bread bags	
 <b>PP</b>	Polypropylene <b>PP</b>	Microwave ware Automotive parts Plant pots Compost bins	
 <b>PS</b>	Polystyrene <b>PS</b> Expanded Polystyrene <b>EPS</b>	Safety helmets Fresh food boxes Drinking cups Insulation panels	
 <b>OTHER</b>	Includes: Polyurethane, Polycarbonate, Nylon, ABS, Degradables	Airbags, Seatbelts Computer cases Life jackets, balls Heart valves	