








Plastic Type	General Properties	Common Household Uses
 PETE Polyethylene Terephthalate	Good gas & moisture barrier properties High heat resistance Clear Hard Tough Microwave transparency Solvent resistant	Mineral Water, fizzy drink and beer bottles Pre-prepared food trays and roasting bags Boil in the bag food pouches Soft drink and water bottles Fibre for clothing and carpets Strapping Some shampoo and mouthwash bottles
 HDPE High Density Polyethylene	Excellent moisture barrier properties Excellent chemical resistance Hard to semi-flexible and strong Soft waxy surface Permeable to gas HDPE films crinkle to the touch Pigmented bottles stress resistant	Detergent, bleach and fabric conditioner bottles Snack food boxes and cereal box liners Milk and non-carbonated drinks bottles Toys, buckets, rigid pipes, crates, plant pots Plastic wood, garden furniture Wheeled refuse bins, compost containers
 V Polyvinyl Chloride	Excellent transparency Hard, rigid (flexible when plasticised) Good chemical resistance Long term stability Good weathering ability Stable electrical properties Low gas permeability	Credit cards Carpet backing and other floor covering Window and door frames, guttering Pipes and fittings, wire and cable sheathing Synthetic leather products
 LDPE Low Density Polyethylene	Tough and flexible Waxy surface Soft – scratches easily Good transparency Low melting point Stable electrical properties Good moisture barrier properties	Films, fertiliser bags, refuse sacks Packaging films, bubble wrap Flexible bottles Irrigation pipes Thick shopping bags (clothes and produce) Wire and cable applications Some bottle tops
 PP Polypropylene	Excellent chemical resistance High melting point Hard, but flexible Waxy surface Translucent Strong	Most bottle tops Ketchup and syrup bottles Yoghurt and some margarine containers Potato crisp bags, biscuit wrappers Crates, plant pots, drinking straws Hinged lunch boxes, refrigerated containers Fabric/ carpet fibres, heavy duty bags/tarpaulins
 PS Polystyrene	Clear to opaque Glassy surface Rigid or foamed Hard Brittle High clarity Affected by fats and solvents	Yoghurt containers, egg boxes Fast food trays Video cases Vending cups and disposable cutlery Seed trays Coat hangers Low cost brittle toys
 OTHER	There are other polymers that have a wide range of uses, particularly in engineering sectors. They are identified with the number 7 and OTHER (or a triangle with numbers from 7 to 19).	Nylon (PA) Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) Polycarbonate (PC) Layered or multi-material mixed polymers