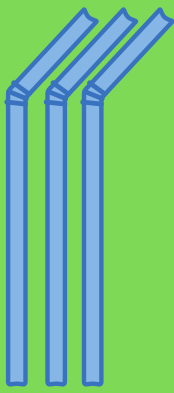


What is Plastic?



A material wonderfully diverse in its uses and structure!



WHAT IS MADE FROM IT?

- Bottles
- Straws
- Trays
- Medical Equipment
- Clothes

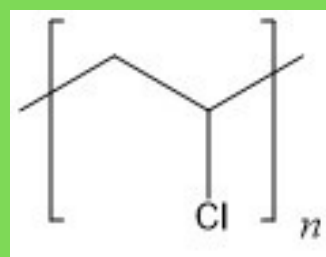
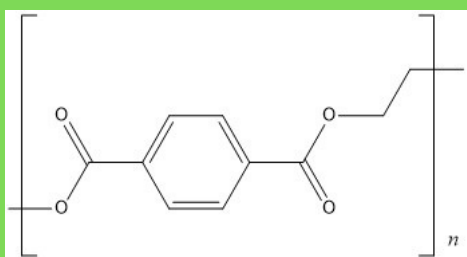
HOW CAN SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS BE MADE FROM ONE MATERIAL?

- There are lots of different kinds of plastic.
- Properties, such as strength, flexibility or transparency, vary across these different kinds of plastic.
- The variety of properties make it possible to select plastic with desirable properties for a specific purpose.



WHERE DO THE DIVERSE PROPERTIES COME FROM?

- Plastics are made up of long chain chemicals called polymers.
- Different polymers are made up of different combinations of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, sulfur or chlorine.
- All these different combinations give polymers different melting points, transparency or tensile strength as well as many other different properties.
- Furthermore, many plastic products contain blends of two or more polymers, to get the desirable properties of both in one product.



Poly(ethylene terephthalate) is the polymer water bottles are made up from.

Poly(vinyl chloride) is a polymer commonly used to insulate electrical wire.