



At a Glance PLASTICS

Polymeric materials or plastics include:

- **Commodity plastics:** polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and polystyrene (PS).
- **Engineering and specialty plastics:** styrene derivatives (PS/EPS & SAN/ABS), polycarbonates, poly methyl methacrylate, poly oxy methylene (POM), etc.

THE CRISIS

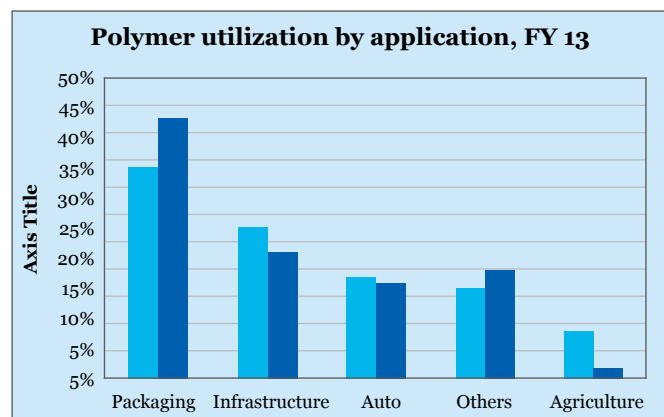
- **Plastic waste piles up** on land, water bodies, and clogs drains and sewers.
- Hazardous chemicals from plastics enter the human body to **cause serious health problems, including cancer.**
- India is the twelfth largest contributor of marine plastic waste, which **impacts the existence of over 267 marine species globally.**
 - **India imports plastics** to fulfil the growing demand.

DROWNING IN PLASTIC

- Growth rate of the plastic industry in India: 12%
- Per capita consumption in India: 9.7 kg
- Annual consumption (2013): 12 million MT
- Regional consumption of plastic
 - o Western India: 47%
 - o Northern India: 23%
 - o Southern India: 21%
- Domestic production of PE in FY 2013: 2.3 million MT
- Domestic consumption of PE in FY 2013: 3.4 million MT
- Domestic production of PVC in FY 2013: 1.2 million MT
- Domestic demand for PVC in FY 2013: 2.1 million MT

PLASTIC USE IN INDIA

Plastic is one of the fastest growing industries in India, and the single largest packaging material (49%).



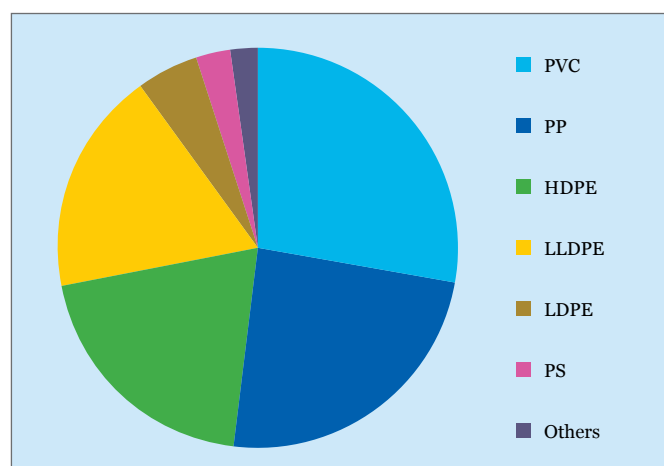
Source: www.ficci.com/spdocument/20396/Knowledge-Paper-ps.pdf
Graph: Demand break up of plastics by type, FY 2013

SECRET HOTSPOTS

Different types of polymer materials in our daily lives have the potential to wreak havoc on our health and environment in the long term.

- Plastic packaging, labelling, bags and containers
- Plastic in textiles (polyester)
- Laboratory equipment
- Ropes
- Thermal underwear
- Carpets
- CD cases
- Disposable food trays and cutlery
- Building insulation
- Flotation devices
- Wall tiles, flooring
- Ice buckets

AND MUCH MORE!



Source: www.ficci.com/spdocument/20396/Knowledge-Paper-ps.pdf

HOPE FLOATS

- Plastic recycling units (organised sector): 3,500
- Plastic recycling units (unorganised sector): 4,000
- Plastic waste recycled annually: 3.6 million MT
- People engaged in plastic recycling: 1.6 million

Source: FICCI

THE LAWS

- **Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999:** Restricted the use of recycled plastic bags to a minimum thickness of 20 microns.
- **Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011:** Set the minimum thickness of carry bags at 40 microns, restricted the use of plastic sachets, banned recycled plastic bags for foodstuff, and introduced the concept of EPR but did not make it mandatory.
- **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016:** Extending to the village level, these set the minimum thickness of plastic carry bags to 50 microns, prohibited the distribution of free bags, and made Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mandatory.

GOING FORWARD

- **Implement the 2016 Rules effectively.**
- **Phase out toxic plastics**, such as PVC and bisphenol A from all applications.
- **Ban single-use Styrofoam, thermocol food ware and decorations, and multi-layer packaging.** Strictly enforce the ban on polybags.
- **Run regular awareness campaigns** on the ill effects of plastic through urban local bodies.
- **Create a plastic waste management policy** based on the tenet of waste minimisation.


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