

PLASTICS

Plastics are a group of substances with similar though not identical properties. Their common properties are: -

- Light in weight
- Less noisy than any other material
- Resistant to most chemicals
- Non-conductor of electricity
- Scratches with harsh abrasives and sharp articles
- Easy to clean
- Non-absorbent
- Some are thermoplastic and absorb grease
- Not liable to be attacked by moths and other pests

Various types

Polyvinyl chloride – This has many uses. Plastic floor finished in tile or sheet form are generally based on PVC and it maybe incorporated with inert fillers, pigments and plasticisers, or it may form a surface layer on some suitable backing. It is also used as wall coverings as tiles or as a coating on wallpapers. It is used in soiled or waste pipes and translucent ceilings.

Polystyrene and some other forms – Polyurethane can be produced as a foam and this when set maybe used in tile or sheet form on walls and ceilings to give in heat and sound insulation, but there is a considerable fire risk.

Polyurethane and polythene are also produced as foams which have resilience and can be cut into required sizes for mattresses and into different shapes for upholstered furniture. Polyurethane is also used as a clear seal on wooden floor and furniture.

Laminates – Melamine, phenols and other resins are used to produce plastics. They maybe stuck direct onto the wall, plywood or similar supporting material.

Synthetic fibers – polyamides, polyesters and acrylics, etc maybe produced as fibers or long filaments and woven into textiles. These synthetic fibers, owing to their great strength and poor absorbency, are durable, easy to clean and quick to dry. Plastic can normally be maintained just by wiping, dusting or washing in hot water and synthetic detergent.