

PLASTICS IDENTIFICATION FLOW CHART

PLASTIC MATERIALS

PRESS A HEATED METAL TIP AGAINST THE SAMPLE, DOES IT GO SOFT?

THERMOPLASTIC

THERMOSETTING

DROP A SMALL SAMPLE IN WATER

BURN A SMALL SECTION OF THIS SAMPLE

POLYOLEFINS

ALL OTHERS

SELF-EXTINGUISHING

CONTINUES TO BURN

MATERIAL OBSERVATIONS	Melamine Formaldehyde	Phenol Formaldehyde	Urea Formaldehyde
COLOUR OF FLAME	YELLOW WITH BLUE TIP	YELLOW	YELLOW WITH GREEN/BLUE EDGE
ODOUR	FISH LIKE	PHENOL	FORMALDEHYDE
OTHER CHARACTERISTICS	SWELLS & CRACKS	MAY OR MAY NOT BE SELF EXTINGUISHING	SWELLS & CRACKS

UNSATURATED POLYESTER	SILICONE	EPOXY
YELLOW WITH BLUE EDGES	BRIGHT YELLOW	YELLOW
FISH LIKE	PHENOL	PUNGENT AMINE
BLACK SMOKE WITH SOOT	CONTINUES TO BURN	BLACK SMOKE

BURN A SMALL SECTION OF THIS SAMPLE

BURN A SMALL SECTION OF THIS SAMPLE

SELF-EXTINGUISHING

NO FLAMES

CONTINUES TO BURN

DRIPS

DRIPS

NO

YES

NO

MATERIAL OBSERVATION	PE	PP	TPX	CTFE	FLOURO POLYMERS	PS	HIPS	SAN	ABS	PMMA	POM	Cellulose	PET	Poly-Urethanes (TPUR)	NYLON	Poly-Sulphone	Poly-Carbonate	PPE	PVC
COLOUR OF FLAME	BLUE WITH YELLOW TIP	BLUE WITH YELLOW TIP	BLUE	DOES NOT BURN	DOES NOT BURN	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW WITH SPARKS	YELLOW WITH BLUE EDGES	YELLOW	BLUE WITH YELLOW TIP	ORANGE	ORANGE OR YELLOW	ORANGE OR YELLOW	YELLOW WITH GREEN EDGES
ODOUR	PARAFFIN	ACRID OR DIESEL FUMES		ACETIC ACID		STYRENE ODOUR	STYRENE AND RUBBER	STYRENE AND BITTER	BITTER AND RUBBER	METHYLATED SPIRITS	FORMALDEHYDE	VINEGAR	BURNING RUBBER	FAINT APPLE	BURNT WOOL OR HAIR	ODOUR OF SULPHUR	PHENOL	PHENOL	HYDROCHLORIC ACID
SPEED OF BURNING	FAST	SLOW	FAST	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	FAST	FAST	FAST	SLOW	FAST	SLOW	FAST	FAST	FAST	SLOW	FAST	SLOW	SLOW	DOES NOT BURN
OTHER FEATURES	SCRATCHES WITH FINGER NAIL	DOES NOT SCRATCH WITH FINGER NAIL	WATER CLEAR	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	DENSE SMOKE WITH SOOT	BLACK SMOKE WITH SOOT	BLACK SMOKE WITH SOOT	BLACK SMOKE WITH SOOT	NO SMOKE	NO SMOKE	BLACK SMOKE WITH SOOT	BLACK SMOKE WITH SOOT	SLIGHT BLACK SMOKE	BUBBLES AT FLAME FRONT	BLACK SMOKE WITH SOOT	BLACK SMOKE WITH SOOT	DIFFICULT TO IGNITE	WHITE ACRID SMOKE