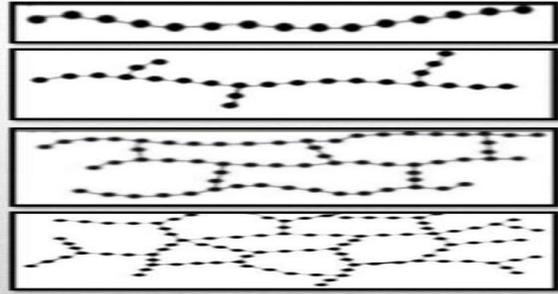


# Plastics

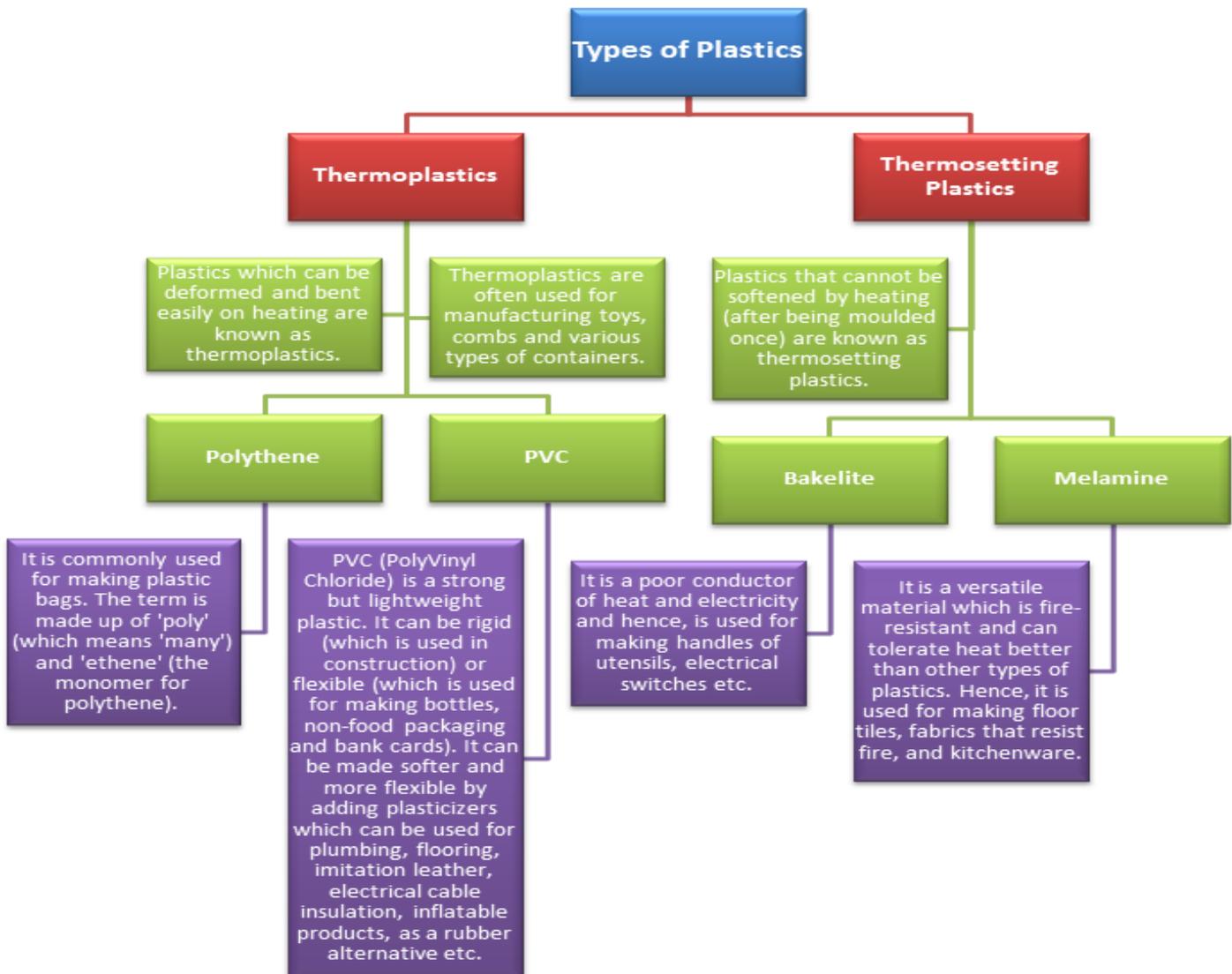
**Plastic** is a polymer (like the synthetic fibre) which can be moulded into different shapes. The word '**plastic**' originates from the Greek word '**plastikos**' which means 'that can be moulded or **shaped**'. Plastic polymers can have different types of arrangement of monomers:

- **LINEAR POLYMERS**
- **BRANCHED POLYMERS**
- **CROSS-LINKED POLYMERS**
- **NETWORK POLYMERS**



Plastic can be recycled and used. It can also be melted, rolled into sheets, made into wires, and coloured.

Some popular types of plastics are:



## Plastics as Materials of Choice

### Advantages of Plastic

Lightweight	Lower price	Good strength	Easy handling	Not-reactive (does not rust like iron when exposed to water and air, and does not corrode easily)	Poor conductor of heat and electricity
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#### **Give Reasons Why:**

##### **Buckets are made of plastic these days.**

Plastic buckets are strong, lightweight, and do not rust.

##### **Bakelite plastic is used to make electrical switches.**

Bakelite is a poor conductor of heat and electricity. Hence, they would not give anyone an electric shock when someone touches the switch.

##### **Melamine is used to make crockery.**

Melamine is unbreakable, fire resistant, and tolerates heat better than plastics. Hence, it can be used to make crockery that can hold hot liquids or dishes served in it.

##### **Plastics are used in cars, aircraft and spacecraft.**

Plastics are strong, durable, lightweight, and corrosion-resistant.

##### **Chemicals are stored in plastic bottles.**

Plastic bottles are lightweight, unbreakable, corrosion-resistant, and are resistant to the action of chemicals. Hence, they are suitable for storing chemicals.

#### **Which plastic is used to make:**

**Non-stick coating on Cookware:** Teflon

**Insulation covering on Wires:** PVC

**Polythene Bags:** Polythene

**Flame-resistant Uniforms:** Melamine

#### **Special uses of Plastic:**

