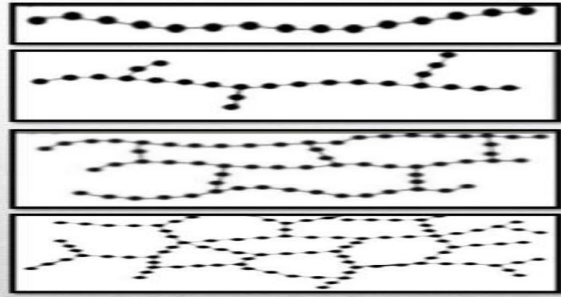


Plastics

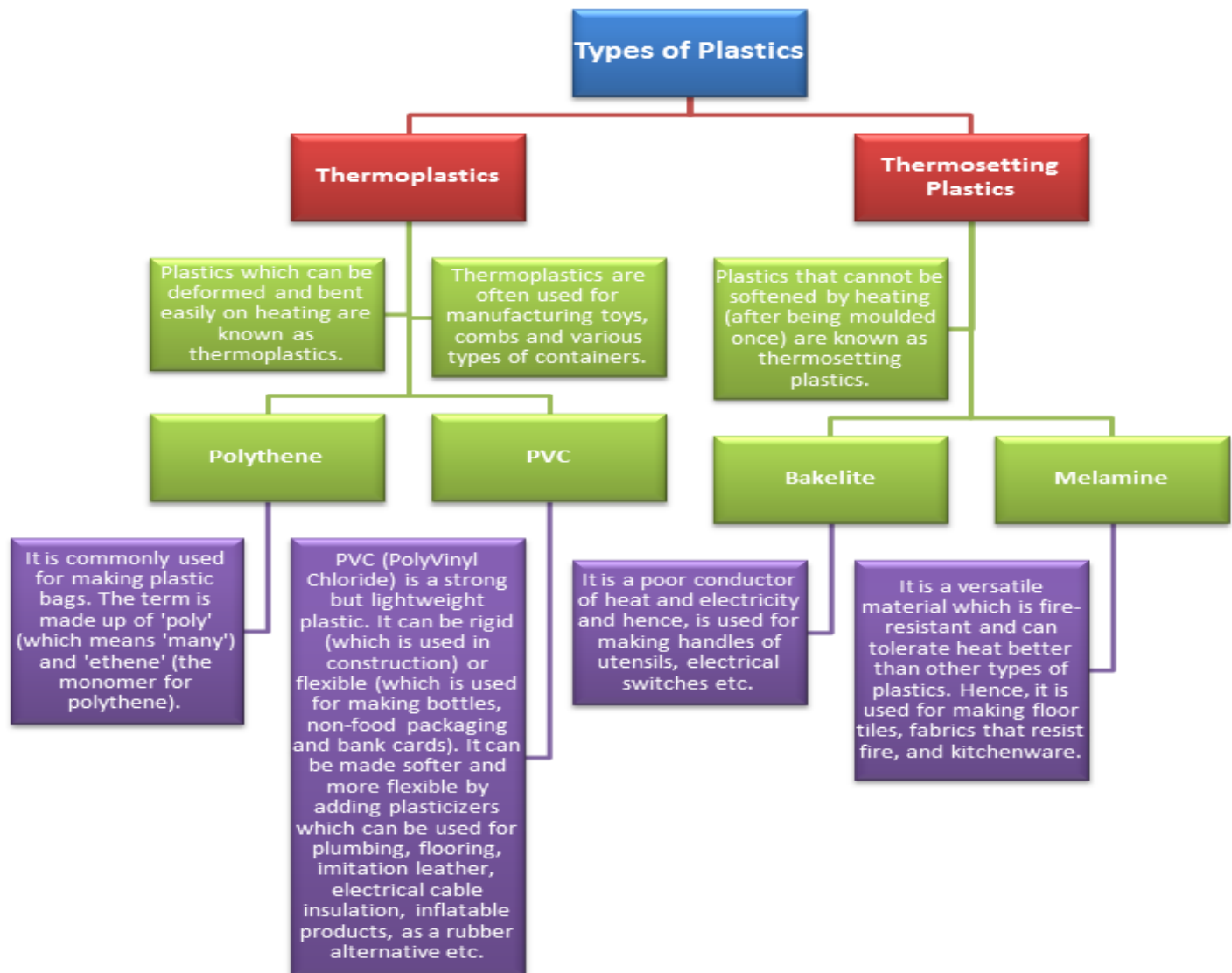
Plastic is a polymer (like the synthetic fibre) which can be moulded into different shapes. The word '**plastic**' originates from the Greek word '**plastikos**' which means 'that can be moulded or **shaped**'. Plastic polymers can have different types of arrangement of monomers:

- **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:

