

Looking for Durability and Strength in Print? Go Plastic.



With improved digital print technology now available, it's never been a better time to consider the advantages of printing on plastic substrates. From signage, placemats and menus to promotional items, and even packaging materials, the list of products that can now be printed on more durable, synthetic materials is growing.

Mac Papers has the right digital media for the job, regardless of the manufacturer or type of equipment used. With access to the broadest product lines and deepest inventories, coupled with fast, local delivery services, we have what you need, when you need it.



| Plastics Applications | Polystyrene (PS) | Polypropylene (PP) | Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) | Polyester (PET) | Polycarbonate (PC) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| General use | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Signage (interior) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Point of purchase display | ✓ | ● | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Cards (gift, financial, ID, etc.) | ✓ | ● | ✓ | ● | ✗ |
| Packaging | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Parking/luggage tags | ✗ | ● | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Manual/journal covers | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Booklets/manuals | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ● | ✗ |
| Maps | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Menus | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Overlays | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✓ | ✓ |
| Shelf danglers | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Pump toppers | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Tickets | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Food and plant tags | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Door hangers | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |

✓ Recommended

● Recommended with testing

✗ Not recommended

To obtain guidance in selecting the best plastic substrate for your equipment and application, contact your local Mac Papers account manager.



Digitally Printable Plastics Comparison

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| Plastics Characteristics | Polystyrene (PS) | Polypropylene (PP) | Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) | Polyester (PET) | Polycarbonate (PC) |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Outdoor (short term) | * | ** | *** | *** | *** |
| Outdoor (long term) | * | * | ** | *** | *** |
| Harsh environment | * | ** | ** | *** | *** |
| Optical clarity (clear only) | * | ** | ** | *** | *** |
| Chemical resistance | * | ** | ** | *** | *** |
| Heat resistance | * | * | ** | *** | *** |
| Recyclability | *** | ** | * | *** | *** |
| Durability | * | * | ** | *** | *** |
| Rigidity | *** | * | *** | *** | ** |
| Scoring/folding | * | *** | * | * | * |
| Thermal lamination | ** | * | *** | *** | *** |
| AQ/UV coating | *** | *** | *** | *** | ** |

*** Optimal

** Satisfactory

* Not Recommended

SELECT CHARACTERISTICS OF PLASTIC SUBSTRATES

Polystyrene (PS)

- Good impact resistance
- Various opacities
- FDA compliant for indirect food contact
- Recyclable as a #6 plastic

Polypropylene (PP)

- Soft-touch texture
- Scores and folds well
- FDA approved for direct food contact
- Recyclable as a #5 plastic

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

- Most widely used print plastic
- Various finishes and textures
- Good rigidity and low flammability
- High resistance to UV degradation
- Recyclable as a #3 plastic

Polyester (PET)

- Various finishes and textures
- High heat stability
- Excellent strength and rigidity
- Recyclable as a #1 plastic
- Great impact and chemical resistance

Polycarbonate (PC)

- High impact strength
- Various finishes and textures
- Durable and formable
- Recyclable as a #7 plastic

