Plastics Ireland
Plastics Ireland represents the interests of the polymer industry in Ireland by promoting the sector, representing its interests, providing advice and facilitating collaboration between companies. Membership of Plastics Ireland includes plastics processors, suppliers of raw materials and equipment, and service providers. Plastics Ireland is a business association within Ibec, Ireland’s leading business representation group.

Processors
- Injection moulding: The most widely used plastic process, producing high volumes from all polymers in every shape and size.
- Blow moulding: Predominantly produces hollow products, such as bottles, drums and ducts.
- Rotational moulding: Used for products with larger hollow sections, such as oil tanks.
- Thermforming: Products are formed by shaping flat sheets with heat and vacuum to form 3D parts such as shower trays, blister packs and car dashboards.
- Tube extrusion: Polymer is extruded into a thin circular tube. Used in variety of medical devices including catheters and electrical cable wrapping.
- Pipe extrusion: Polymer is extruded into a thick circular tube. Used predominantly in construction, drainage and packaging.
- Film extrusion: Polymer is blown or cast into a thin film for products such as plastic bags, cing film, silage wrap and bin liners.
- Sheet extrusion: Polymer is extruded into sheet, which can be used in signage and bathroom products, or thermoformed as described above.
- Foam moulding: Foaming agent is added in the production process to give lighter products for insulation and packaging.
- Non-woven/fibre: Fibres extruded from polymer are used for textiles and in the fashion industry. Non-woven fibres are found in upholstery and bedding products.

Suppliers
- Raw materials: Any company involved in supplying raw materials into the polymer sector.
- Tool and mould: Create and/or design tools and moulds for the polymer industry.
- Machines and ancillaries: Suppliers of polymer processing equipment and ancillaries to the industry.
- Compounds and pigments: Suppliers of polymer compounds and pigments to the industry.

Services
- Other: Companies supplying services to the polymer industry, such as recycling, packaging and clean room validation.

Categories of company in the polymer industry

- Processors
- Suppliers
- Services

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Mapping Ireland’s polymer technology industry

The polymer industry has an annual turnover of €1.7bn

Each year the Irish polymer industry pays out €266m in wages

7,500 The number of companies working together as Ibec for Irish Business

75% of sales in the industry are exported

Learn more about us at www.plasticsireland.ie
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