



Chemical Resistance

The following table contains an evaluation of chemical resistance to a number of fluids, judged to be either aggressive or not towards Polyethylene, Polypropylene or Polystyrene. In general common chemical names are used.

The evaluation is based on values obtained by immersion of test specimens in the fluid concerned at 20 °C and atmospheric pressure. It is a provisional classification (sat. sol = saturated aqueous solution, prepared at 20°C).

Actual chemical resistance of TPP products depends on many variables such as:

- exposure time
- concentration of chemicals
- thermal stress (e.g., autoclaving)
- exertion of force
- exposure to UV radiation
- aging, which may be caused by the action of detergents
- other environmental factors

The recommendations given from TPP are based on technical literature and information provided by the manufacturers of raw materials. They were prepared carefully and are intended as general guide for users of plastic materials. However, they cannot replace suitability testing performed by the user under actual working conditions. For the list of chemical resistance, following legend is valid:

+ = Good chemical resistance	± = Good to limited chemical resistance	- = Poor chemical resistance t
Continuous exposure to the substance does not cause damage within 30 days. The plastic may remain resistant for years.	Continuous exposure to the substance causes minor damages, some of which is reversible, within 7-30 days (e.g., swelling, softening, decrease of mechanical strength, discoloration).	Not suitable for continuous exposure to the substance. Immediate damage may occur (loss of mechanical strength, deformation, discoloration, cracking, dissolution).

Resistance to chemicals	Polyethylene (PE) 20 °C	Polypropylene (PP) 20 °C	Polystyrene (PS) 20 °C
A			
Acetaldehyde	±	±	-
Acetic acid	+	+	±
Acetic acid 5%	+	+	+
Acetic acid 50%	+	+	±
Acetic acid glacial	+	+	-
Acetone	+	+	-
Acetonitrile	+	+	-



Resistance to chemicals	Polyethylene (PE) 20 °C	Polypropylene (PP) 20 °C	Polystyrene (PS) 20 °C
Acetophenone	+	+	-
Adipic Acid	+	+	+
Allyl alcohol	+	+	±
Aluminum chloride	+	+	+
Amino acids	+	+	+
Ammonia aqueous sat. sol	+	+	+
Ammonia liquid 100%	+	+	±
Ammonium acetate sat sol	+	+	+
Ammonium chloride sat. sol	+	+	+
Amyl acetate 100%	±	±	-
Amyl alcohol 100%	+	+	±
Aniline 100%	+	+	-
Aqua regia HCl / HNO ₃ = 3:1	-	-	-
Arsenic acid	+	+	+
B			
2-Butanol	+	+	±
Benzaldehyde	+	+	-
Benzene	-	-	-
Benzyl alcohol	±	-	-
Boric acid	+	+	+
Butyl acetate 100%	±	-	-
C			
Calcium chlorate	+	+	+
Calcium chloride	+	±	+
Calcium hydroxide	+	±	±
Calcium hypochlorite	+	±	+
Carbazole	+	+	+
Carbon tetrachloride	±	-	-
Chlorine aqueous sat sol	±	+	-
Chlorine liquid 100%	-	-	-
Chlorobenzene	±	-	-
Chloroform	±	±	-
Chromic acid up to 40%	-	+	+
Citric Acid sat. sol	+	+	+
Copper sulphate aq	+	+	+
D			
1,4-Dioxane	±	±	-
Decahydronaphtalene (Decalin)	+	±	-
Dibutylphthalate	+	+	-
Diethyl ether	±	+	-
Diethyl malonate	+	+	-
Diethylene dioxide	+	+	-
Diethylene glycol	+	+	±
Dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO)	+	+	+



Resistance to chemicals	Polyethylene (PE) 20 °C	Polypropylene (PP) 20 °C	Polystyrene (PS) 20 °C
E			
Ethyl acetate	+	±	-
Ethyl alcohol (absolute)	-	+	±
Ethyl alcohol 40%	+	+	±
Ethyl alcohol 96%	+	+	±
Ethylene chloride	-	-	
Ethylene glycol	+	+	+
Ethylene oxide 100%	±	±	-
F			
Fatty acids	+	+	+
Fluorinated hydrocarbon	-	±	-
Fluorine	-	-	
Fluorine gas	-	-	-
Formaldehyde	+	+	-
Formaldehyde 10%	+	+	±
Formaldehyde 40%	+	+	-
Formic acid up to 100%	+	+	±
Formic acid up to 40%	+	+	±
H			
Hexane	+	+	±
Hydrobromic acid up to 100%	+	+	-
Hydrochloric acid	+	+	±
Hydrochloric acid 20%	+	+	+
Hydrochloric acid 5%	+	+	+
Hydrochloric acid up to 40%	+	+	+
Hydrofluoric acid 4%	+	+	±
Hydrofluoric acid 48%	+	+	-
Hydrogen peroxide 30%	+	+	
I			
Isopropanol	+	±	+
Isopropyl ether 100%	+	+	+
L			
Lactic acid 10%	+	+	±
Lactic acid up to 100%	+	+	±
Lead acetate	+	-	
M			
2-Methoxyethanol	+	+	-
Magnesium chloride sat sol	+	+	+
Mercury	+	+	+
Mercury hydroxide	+	+	±
Methanol 100%	+	+	±
Methoxyethyl oleate	+	+	-
Methyl alcohol	+	+	+
Methylene chloride	-	±	-



Resistance to chemicals	Polyethylene (PE) 20 °C	Polypropylene (PP) 20 °C	Polystyrene (PS) 20 °C
N			
n-Butanol	+	+	+
n-Octane	+	+	-
Nitric acid 40 - 50%	±	±	±
Nitric acid up to 30%	+	+	±
O			
Oxalic acid sat sol	+	+	+
Ozone	±	+	±
P			
2-Propanol	+	+	+
Perchloroethylene	-	-	-
Petroleum ether	±	±	-
Phenol 90%	+	-	-
Phosphoric acid	+	+	+
Phosphoric acid 5%	+	+	±
Phosphoric acid 85%	+	+	+
Phosphorus trichloride	+		
Potassium hydroxide up to 50%	+	+	±
Potassium permanganate 30%	+	+	±
Propylene glycol	+	+	+
Pyridine	-	-	-
S			
Silicone oil	+	+	+
Silver nitrate	+	+	±
Sodium carbonate up to 50%	+	+	+
Sodium dichromate sat. sol	+	+	+
Sodium hydroxide 1%	±	+	±
Sodium hydroxide 10% - 60%	±	+	+
Sodium hypochlorite 15%	+	+	+
Stearic acid	+	+	+
Sulphuric acid 10 - 30%	+	+	±
Sulphuric acid 50%	+	+	±
Sulphuric acid 96%	±	±	-
Sulphuric acid 98%	±	±	-
Sulphuric acid up to 10%	+	+	+
T			
Tartaric acid sat sol	+	+	±
Tetrahydrofuran	-	±	-
Tincture of iodine	+	+	±
Toluene	±	±	-
Tributyl citrate	±	±	-
Trichloroethylene	-	-	-
Triethylene glycol	+	+	+
Tripropylene glycol	+	+	+
Trisodium phosphate	+	+	

Source: TPP/literature

Note: TPP products are for research use only and not intended for use in clinical, diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. TPP does not assume any guarantee for damages and defects resulting from unregistered or improper use.

TPP recommendations are guidelines and do not represent an absolute value. TPP accepts no responsibility for the topicality, accuracy, completeness or quality of this techdoc.



Resistance to chemicals	Polyethylene (PE) 20 °C	Polypropylene (PP) 20 °C	Polystyrene (PS) 20 °C
U			
Urea sat sol	+	+	+
X			
Xylene	±	-	±
Z			
Zinc chloride sat sol	+	+	±
Zinc sulphate sat sol	+	+	+