



Polymer Industries Announces New Massive HDPE Extrusion Machine

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Polymer Industries of Henagar, Alabama has added an additional piece of extrusion equipment to their production facility. While they already have the highest number of high end extrusion equipment than any other American manufacturer, they still added a massive new HDPE extrusion machine.

The new extruder is capable of extruding up to .750" thick in sheets that are 144" wide (12 feet). This huge new machine can run from about .125" to the .750" thickness. Some of the benefits of a machine this large would be the number of possibilities of sheet configurations for special and custom sized sheets. First, it can run a full 144" wide, but it can also make 3 sheets 48" wide at one time. This is a huge time saver as well as cutting waste from odd sized sheet productions of HDPE sheeting. This extruder will work with most Polyolefin materials, but HDPE is the primary material currently being produced.

The Polyolefin family is home to a select group of plastics with similar traits, the largest usage would be in HDPE. These Polyolefin plastics may be similar, but they have uses that range from extremely low temperature use (sub-zero), to extremely high wear properties, and even a living hinge ability. The plastics in the Polyolefin family include LDPE, HDPE, UHMW-PE, and Polypropylene.

LDPE

The letters in LDPE stands for Low Density Polyethylene. It has a relatively low density compared to other plastics. LDPE floats in water, and is a great choice for applications using water systems. LDPE cannot be bonded by glues or solvents. LDPE is a food safe material, but people often opt out for HDPE and UHMW, as they are more impact resistant and have higher densities.

HDPE

The HDPE stands for High Density Polyethylene. Although it has a higher density than LDPE, it still floats in water like the other members in its family. HDPE is a common choice for people who want a good balance of wear resistance, low cost, and good chemical resistance. HDPE is commonly used as a cutting board for these exact reasons. HDPE sheets are also FDA and NSF approved. Like LDPE, HDPE must be either welded or mechanically fastened. Sunboard, a modified HDPE with UV inhibitors, is widely used in the marine industry, and replaces marine grade plywood. This is one of the most popular materials that Polymer Industries produces.

UHMW-PE

The UHMW-PE, or just UHMW for short, stands for Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene. Like the rest of the olefins, UHMW floats in water. UHMW is often referred to as the "poor man's PTFE" because of its high wear properties, but lower cost than that of PTFE. UHMW is also a food safe material, boasting its FDA and NSF approvals. UHMW has one of the highest impact resistances, making it perfect for industrial use. UHMW is also available in a reprocessed blend, for a lower overall cost.

Polypropylene

A very popular tank building material is Polypropylene, available in Sheets and Rods, are great all around commercial plastic materials. It has a great resistance to many different chemicals. Polypropylene also has a unique ability to form a "living hinge". This means when it is creased, it does not break or snap, but forms a hinge on that spot instead.

The Polyolefin family of plastics covers a variety of applications. They are relatively low cost compared to other plastics with similar qualities, and they are all able to be reprocessed. Whether you need a plastic with great wear properties, low operating temperature, a tank to store your fishing bait, or you just need something to cut your food on, the olefin family has something for everyone.

With the addition of the huge extruder at Polymer Industries, all of the materials in the Polyolefin family can be produced quicker and more efficiently. Contact me for any of these materials fine materials from Polymer Industries.

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High Tech Plastics

High Tech Plastics is a supplier of plastic sheet, rods and tubes. With the largest selection of cut to size and remnant plastic pieces in the industry. From ABS to Ultem, we carry it all.

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