



# **SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS**

## **BLOW MOLDING DIVISION**

Volume 2008 Edition 1

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Anyone involved with plastics will benefit from attending Plastics Encounter and ANTEC. As the single largest technical conference in the plastics industry worldwide, ANTEC offers forums and sessions for engineers, R&D scientists, technicians, technical sales people, technical support personnel, academicians, and managers in the plastics industry.

#### **Top 5 Reasons To Attend Plastics Encounter and ANTEC:**

1. Broaden Your Understanding of the Plastics Industry – Attend sessions exploring the full spectrum of the plastics industry. Plastics Encounter and ANTEC is the place to gain exposure to developments and people from throughout the entire industry.
2. Network – Meet with fascinating, informed and creative colleagues from around the world to share insights from a broad range of disciplines and industries within plastics.
3. Visit With Exhibitors – Walk the Plastics Encounter show floor and talk with representatives from leading companies who offer solutions for your business.
4. Understand the Impact of New Technology – Confer with the plastics industry's leading experts to see what new technologies and techniques are being developed today.
5. Build New Skills – ANTEC offers seminars, workshops and other forums for people of all levels within the plastics industry. Take advantage of one or more of our special sessions to enhance your skills and increase your knowledge.

#### **Don't forget to attend the Technical Session -**

Blow Molding (D30), on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, Session W2

New Advances in Blow Molding, Moderated by Scott Steele, Plastic Technologies, Inc.

8:30 AM - New Technology To Vary The Radial Thickness Distribution Of The Parison In Extrusion Blow Moulding - Heinz Gross, Gross Kunststoff-Verfahrenstechnik

9:00 AM - Optimization Of A PET Preform Design For Better Bottle Barrier Properties - Dinu Chettiar, Swinburne University of Technology

9:30 AM - New Impact Resistant Polyester Blow Molding Compositions With Excellent Ethanol Fuel Barrier Properties - Donald Ellington, SABIC Innovative Plastics

10:00 AM - Property Verification Of Thermoplastic Elastomer Bottles Produced From Custom Designed Extrusion Blow Molding Molds - Daniel Dempsey, Pennsylvania State University at Erie, The Behrend College



## Chairperson's Message



As we settle into this winter, the Board is already busy planning this October's Annual Blow Molding conference. We are excited about going back to the Chevron Phillips Technical Center in Bartlesville, OK. It has been several years since we have been there. Last time we were there, it was one of our most successful conferences. It is one of the few locations that allow the attendees to see Blow Molding equipment in action.

At our next Board meeting in February, we will be looking to define the topics for the conference. If you have any topical ideas, new technology, or want to speak, please contact me and I will forward the information at the meeting. We want to create a learning experience with new and relevant information for all of the attendees.

Please remember to mark your calendars for October 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be an event you will not want to miss. I look forward to seeing you there.



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# 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BLOW MOLDING CONFERENCE 2008



Chevron-Phillips Technical Center  
Bartlesville, OK

**October 8 & 9, 2008**

## “ABC 2008: Building Blocks for the Future”

*The Annual Blow Molding Conference is the technical and market driven event for the end-users, blow molders, resin manufacturers, mold-makers, and machinery manufacturers*

- ✓ Learn about the advances in machinery, processes, and blow molding technology
- ✓ Understand where the industry can grow
- ✓ Network with End-users, processors, manufacturers, and suppliers

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

*Global blow molding issues and market conditions.*  
*Rigid packaging technical development and issues facing the industry today.*  
*Automotive and industrial in a dynamically changing market.*  
*Education programs offered by industry experts.*

### SPEAKER TO PRESENT...

**Market Overviews**  
- Resin, demands, and opportunities  
*Sustainability / Bio-Polymers initiatives*  
*End-User perspectives*  
*Trends in machine design*  
*Latest blow molding innovations*

### Conference Site

Bartlesville Community Center  
300 SE Adams Blvd., Bartlesville, OK 74003  
(800) 618-2787

[www.visitbartlesville.com](http://www.visitbartlesville.com)  
[www.bartlesvillecommunitycenter.com](http://www.bartlesvillecommunitycenter.com)

### Hotel Accommodations

#### Hotel Phillips

821 South Johnstone Ave.  
Bartlesville, OK 74003  
(918)366-5600 or (800)331-0706

#### Inn at Price Tower

510 Dewey Ave.  
Bartlesville, OK 74003  
(918)336-1000  
[www.innatpricetower.com](http://www.innatpricetower.com)

#### Hampton Inn

130 SE Washington Blvd.  
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**For additional information:**  
[www.blowmoldingdivision.org](http://www.blowmoldingdivision.org)





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# Annual Blow Molding Conference

**October 8 - 9, 2008**

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Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ SPE Member ID No. (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration before September 21, 2008**

Registration Fee : SPE Member \$350.00;

Non-member \$475.00 **(This fee includes a 1 year SPE Membership)**

Fee includes all materials, lunch and dinner.

**Registration after September 22, 2008 and at the door.**

Registration Fee : SPE Member \$400.00;

Non-member \$525.00 **(This fee includes a 1 year SPE Membership)**

Fee includes all materials, lunch and dinner.

Payment Methods:

1) Check – made payable to SPE Blow Molding Division, sent with registration to:  
ABC Conference 2008, P.O. Box 964, Holland, OH 43528-0964, USA

OR

2) Corporate Credit Card – Call Scott Steele at 419 867-5403,  
E-mail: [ABC2008@pti-e.com](mailto:ABC2008@pti-e.com)

OR

3) Paypal® (on-line payment service: [www.blowmoldingdivision.org](http://www.blowmoldingdivision.org) and choose conference  
link on left to register/buy)

***Fees for Students and multiple attendees from the same company please  
contact Scott Steele at 419 867-5403.***

## Domestic Polyethylene Pricing – Truly a Mixed Tale

by Jeffrey Light, A-ToP Polymers, Inc.

Pricing dynamics for blow molding grade Polyethylene are global. Over the past several years, we have become increasingly aware that North American based Polyethylene resin producers have profitably tapped export opportunities when global market dynamics are ripe. Although there are countless factors involved in disciplined global trade practices, this streamlined view focuses on three leading economic basics, the weak US Dollar, global PE supply/demand issues, and comparable feedstock cost structures. These ongoing considerations have contributed to the impressive growth in exported pounds over the recent years and will continue to impact the future of North American supply and demand.

It is no secret that our US government's current economic policy is determined to keep the US Dollar low as compared to the currency of our trading partners. Our leaders are of the opinion that if we keep the Dollar low, not only can we hedge off inflation and recession, but our goods will remain attractive to other nations and thus keep our domestic factories working. Although economic policy is an extremely in-depth consideration, not to mention highly debatable, the bottom line is two-fold. First, since oil is traded in US Dollars, each time the dollar has devalued the cost for oil has increased. No one is insulated from the effects of higher oil prices. We see higher resin/commodity costs, not to mention the impact to our personal expenses, i.e. gasoline, heat, travel costs, etc. Second, the lower US Dollar makes exporting commodities including PE from US production assets more attractive to our trade partners as foreign currencies strengthen. Below is a graph detailing the value change in the US Dollar vs. the Euro over the past 5 years.

Unplanned plant outages abroad and announced plant closures by resin producers coupled with growing global demand for blow molding grade Polyethylene have, in spite of a weaker US economy, caused there to be a true need for North American produced pounds overseas. Latin American, European, and Asian demand for throughput

*continued on next page*



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requirements has, in many cycles, exceeded the supply capacity of production assets within their regions. This supply/demand imbalance has created an environment in which ongoing global capacity limitations require supplements to meet actual end-use item order fulfillment. Polyethylene production outages, unexpected or planned maintenance shut-ins play a vital role in securing balanced market dynamics. Not until the new Polyethylene production assets commence true output, will there be any change to the current formula of tight global supply and high demand. It will be interesting to see what happens to the North American marketplace when these new overseas facilities can finally support the off-shore demand currently fulfilled by North American Polyethylene production.

Polyethylene feedstock costs vary. Variables include organizational vertical integration, transportation costs, refining yields, competitive markets for derivatives, etc. These factors have been constants in an ever changing business environment. Blow molding grade Polyethylene is produced, albeit at different economics, from natural resources, i.e. oil or natural gas. Below is a chemical flow chart listing all the products/markets that derive their existence from oil and/or natural gas. A defining factor that must be understood is the fact that the majority of Polyethylene produced in North America can be traced back to natural gas whereas abroad, the feedstock has been mostly oil. Historically, it has been more cost effective to manufacture Polyethylene from natural gas than oil, yielding benefits to North American manufacturing locations. Oil is a global commodity, while natural gas is continent specific (however LNG is poised to become a globally traded commodity in the near future). Many Polyethylene buyers painfully remember the "surcharges" imposed by North American resin producers in 2003 when the price of natural gas skyrocketed due to heightened demand for other derivatives and the challenges of refiners to meet total demand. The recent escalation in oil prices has significantly raised the production costs to manufacture Polyethylene abroad, much more so than the change in natural gas prices have affected North American Polyethylene costs. This dynamic has contributed to the rise in domestic PE prices which have, as of recent periods, fluctuated more closely to the oil price vs. actual natural gas feedstock costs.

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# US Dollar vs. Euro past 5 years

as of 7-Mar-2008



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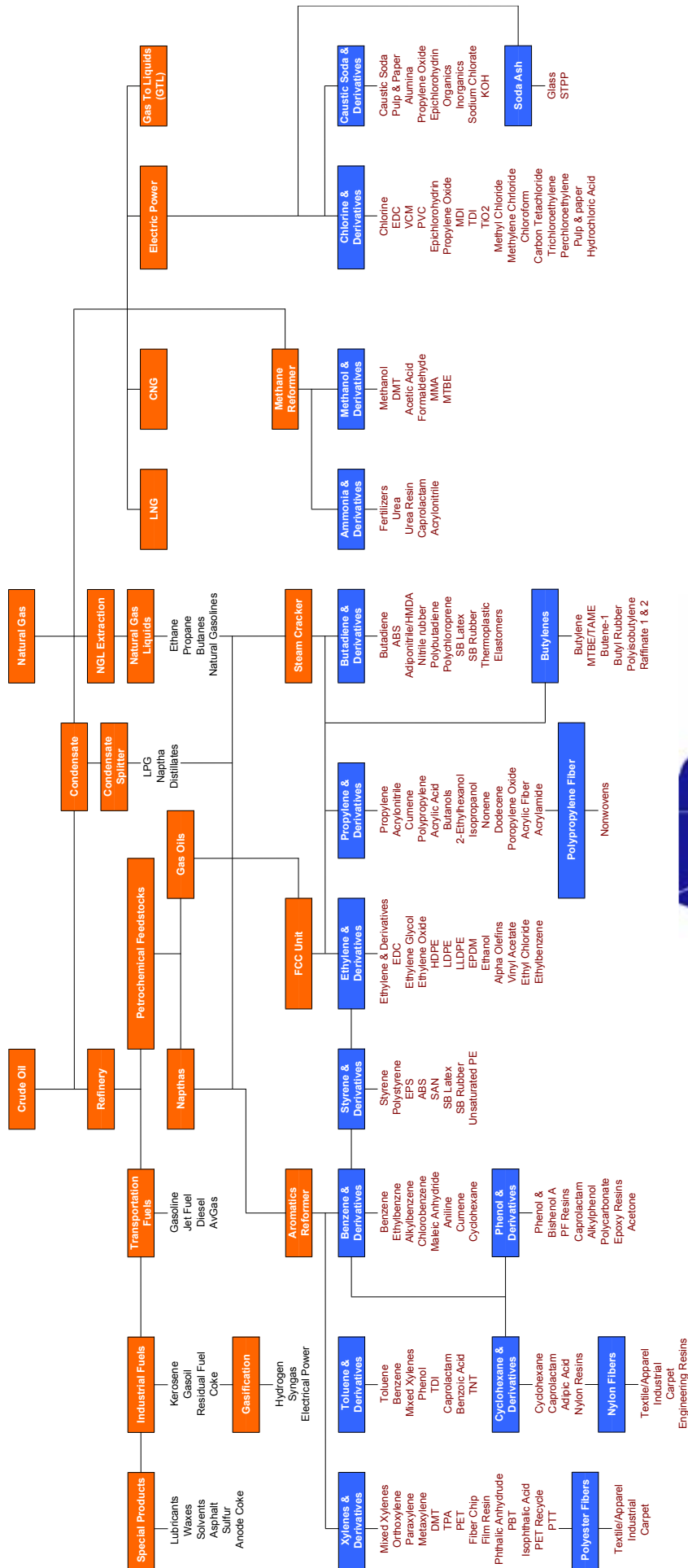
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of this chart, go  
to the Blow Molding  
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Mike Gardner Research Scientist T: +44 164 257 2220 E: [michael.w.gardner@invista.com](mailto:michael.w.gardner@invista.com)



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# SPE Blow Molding in Toledo, OH



The Society of Plastics Engineers Annual Blow Molding Conference was held October 2008 in Toledo, OH. Four seniors (Chris Kann, Jeremy Miller, Jeff Bobkoski, and student SPE chapter president Mike Willoughby) in the Plastics & Polymer Technology program of Pennsylvania College of Technology and John Bartolomucci of the plastics faculty were invited guests to the three-day event.

In addition to Penn College students, approximately 15 students attended from the plastics programs at Penn State Behrend, University of Massachusetts (Lowell), Ferris State University, and the University of Akron. This was the first annual Blow Molding Conference attendance for Penn College students who took part in several industry technical presentations and displayed and manned a tabletop exhibit of the Penn College plastics education program during exhibit hours.

Blow molding is a process used to produce a wide variety of hollow plastic products used in the high growth packaging markets including food, beverage, consumer, pharmaceutical, and medical markets. Several Penn College plastics graduates are sought and recruited each year by many of the companies attending the conference this year. Attending students received an outstanding plastics education benefit along with excellent career networking opportunities.

Pennsylvania College of Technology offers a two-year Associate of Applied Science in Plastics & Polymer Technology (PS) degree and a four-year Bachelor of Science in Plastics & Polymer Engineering Technology (BPS) degree.



Chris Kann (background) and Michael Willoughby, student SPE chapter president (foreground).

If you would like to learn more about Penn College's Plastics & Polymer Technology program, please call the Office of Admissions (570) 327-4761 or 1-800-367-9222, or the School of Industrial & Engineering Technologies at (570) 3267-4520.

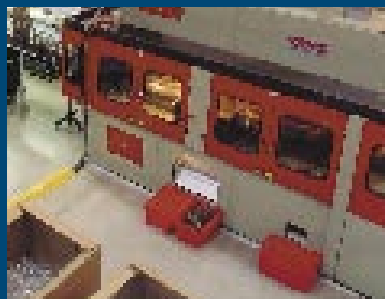
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## Graham Engineering Corporation Continuing Education Grant Program

The Blow Molding Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers and Graham Engineering Corporation co-sponsor a program for continuing education of blow molding industry workers. By making financial resources available to Blow Molding Division member companies, this program will assist more people in obtaining continued education in blow molding and improve their job-related skills.

Up to \$500 per person is available to attend an SPE Blow Molding Conference, an SPE Seminar in Blow Molding, or other program applicable to blow molding.

### Eligibility Criteria:

1. The employee must be a full-time employee of one of our member companies (having at least one current member of the SPE Blow Molding Division).
2. The employee's job function must be blow molding related.
3. The employee's academic training must not be higher than Associate Degree.
4. The employee must have company recommendation and support.
5. Costs exceeding \$500 will be the responsibility of the employee or employer.

### How to enroll:

1. Submit a request to the Blow Molding Division at the following address:  
  
Mark Heitker  
INEOS Technical Center  
1230 Battleground Road  
LaPorte, TX 77571  
[Mark.Heitker@ineos.com](mailto:Mark.Heitker@ineos.com)
2. Include a letter of support from your company.
3. You will be notified of acceptance before the event that you wish to attend.



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**EASTMAN**

## **Annual Blow Molding Conference** October 8-9, 2008 Bartlesville, OK

Coming soon, the Blow Molding Division of SPE will be hosting the premier forum for the blow molding industry. The Annual Blow Molding Conference provides blow molders, resin manufacturers, mold-makers, and machinery manufacturers the opportunity to network and interact while learning about the latest innovations in blow molding technology. Speakers from 25 companies will cover topics from every area of the blow molding industry. Look for more details in this issue.



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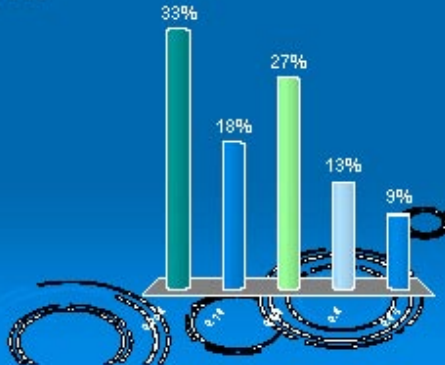


## Quiz!

### What do you really know about plastics?

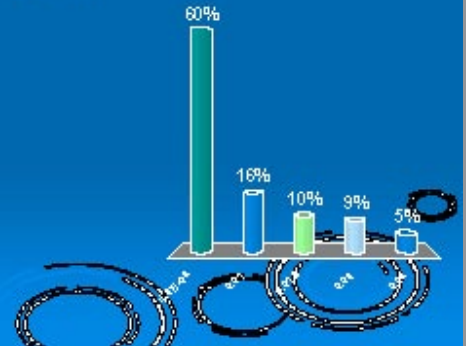
#### Our Landfills: What Percentage Are Plastics?

1. 9.5% - Correct
2. 18%
3. 38%
4. 50%
5. 84%



#### What percent of US land area is currently landfill space?

1. .00048% - Correct
2. 1%
3. 1.2%
4. 3%
5. 5%



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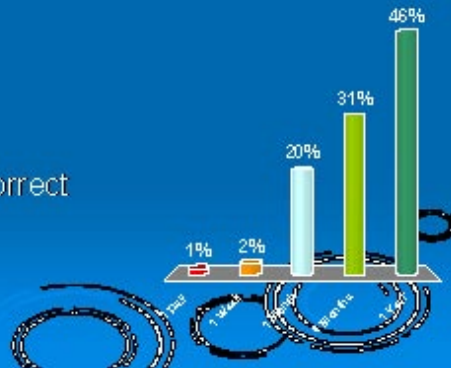
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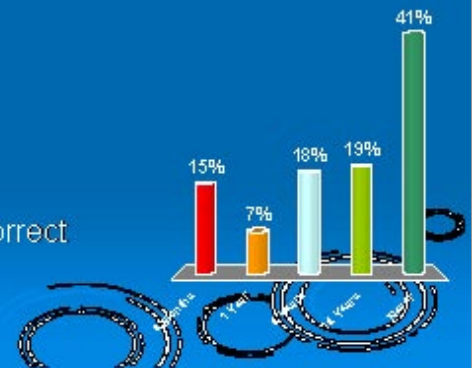
In what time frame will compostable corn-based polymer food containers biodegrade outside, on the ground?

- 1 Day
- 1 Week
- 1 Month
- 8 Months
- 1 Year - Correct



How long does it take for biodegradable material to biodegrade in a landfill?

- 6 Months
- 1 Year
- 5 Years
- 15 Years
- Never - Correct



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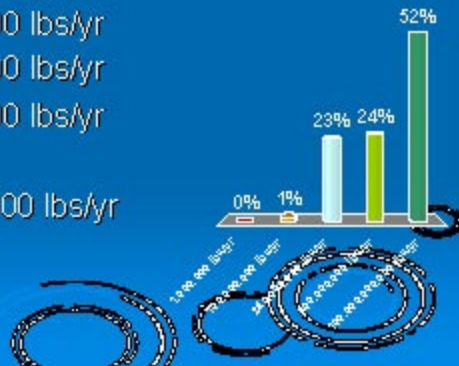


Hand Load Deflasher



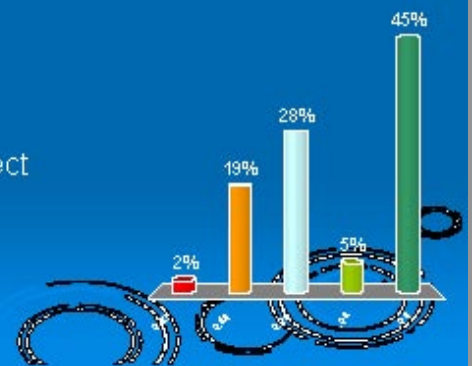
## How much plastic does the US create each year?

1. 1,000,000 lbs/yr
  2. 100,000,000 lbs/yr
  3. 250,000,000 lbs/yr
  4. 500,000,000 lbs/yr
- Correct  
100,000,000,000 lbs/yr



If we switch away from all plastics food packaging we could save what percent of our annual fossil fuels?

1. 67%
2. 53%
3. 8%
4. 6%
5. 3% - Correct



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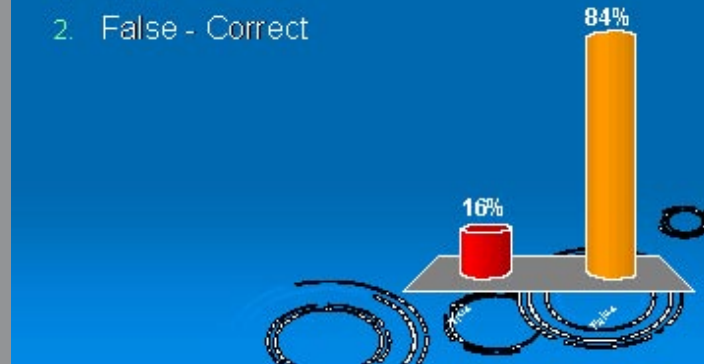


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## Plastic Grocery Bags Cannot Be Recycled

1. True
2. False - Correct



How did you do?

Slides from Rob Krebs, Director of Communications, American Chemistry Council

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| Transfer heat uniformly | Uniform coating                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dimensionally correct parts</li> <li>• Minimized warpage</li> <li>• Reduced scrap rates</li> </ul> |
| Sustain 1M+ cycle life  | Excellent hardness, wear resistance, non-galling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher cycle life with lower maintenance costs</li> <li>• Less downtime</li> </ul>                 |
| Be easily fabricated    | Faster machining rates than tool steels          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower mold fabrication costs</li> </ul>  |



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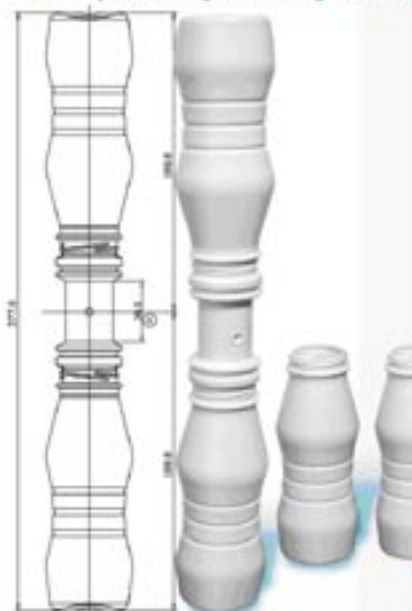
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