

DESIGNING WITH PLASTICS

Improving your product's performance and cost is a definite way to become more competitive. Plastics are increasingly replacing common materials such as glass, steel, bronze and ceramics. Plastics can offer increased life and reduced costs if selected correctly.

With all the plastics available today it can be very difficult to select the correct type of plastic for your application. The following seven questions can quickly help you focus your search.

1. DO YOU NEED TO SEE THROUGH IT?

Very few plastics are available which are transparent. If your design or customer requires transparent material, you can quickly eliminate many types of plastics.

2. WHAT IS THE OPERATING TEMPERATURE?

Plastics can be very sensitive to temperatures and very few can operate above 400°F. Knowing your maximum operating temperature will further reduce the choices.

3. WHAT ARE TENSILE AND/OR LOAD REQUIREMENTS?

Generally plastics have lower tensile strengths compared to metals. If the material is subjected to high loads specific types can be eliminated.

4. ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS?

Chemical resistance, UV, high tolerances, finishes?

5. ARE THERE ANY REGULATORY COMPLIANCE NEEDS?

FDA, USDA, 3A, ASTM, etc.

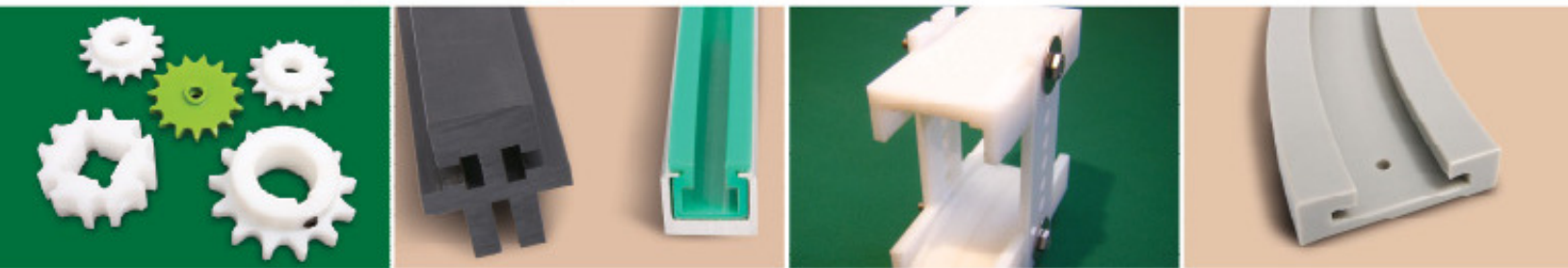
6. WHY CHOOSE PLASTICS?

What is the driving interest in engineered plastics? Corrosion resistances, weight reduction, noise reduction, insulation?

7. WHAT IS THE COST MOTIVATION?

Longer life, reduced down time, weight reduction, appearance and aesthetics, friction, etc.

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