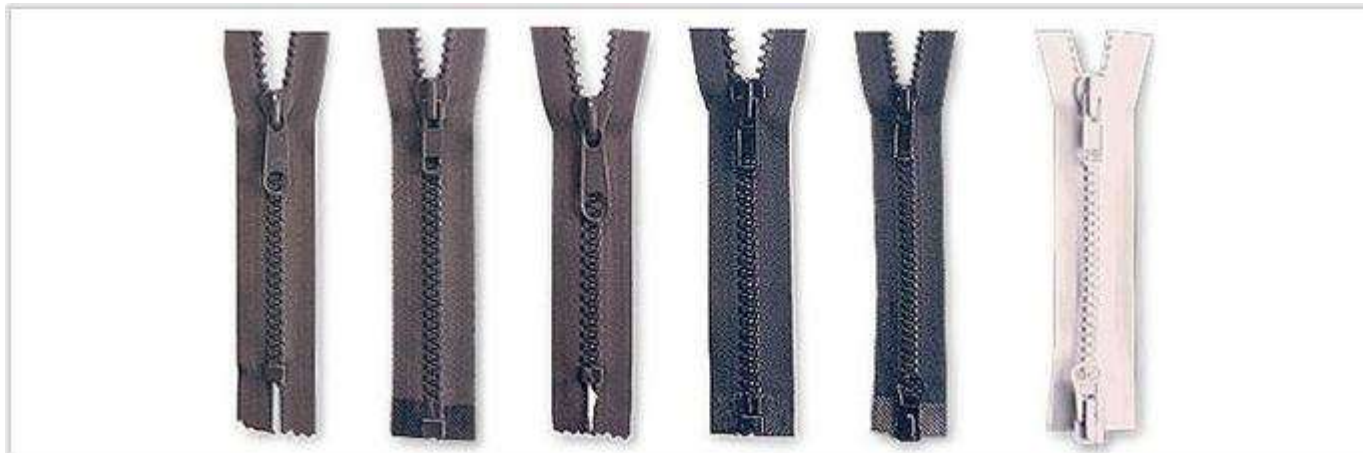


## Description

### Image



### Caption

Zips.

### The material

POM was first marketed by DuPont in 1959 as Delrin. It is similar to nylon but is stiffer, and has better fatigue and water resistance - nylons, however, have better impact and abrasion resistance. It is rarely used without modifications: most often filled with glass fiber, flame retardant additives or blended with PTFE or PU. The last, POM/PU blend, has good toughness. POM is used where requirements for good moldability, fatigue resistance and stiffness justify its high price relative to mass polymers, like polyethylene, which are polymerized from cheaper raw materials using lower energy input.

### Composition (summary)

$(CH_2O)_n$

## General properties

Density	1,39e3	-	1,43e3	kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Price	* 2,39	-	2,51	EUR/kg
Date first used	1956			

## Mechanical properties

Young's modulus	2,6	-	3,2	GPa
Shear modulus	* 0,932	-	1,15	GPa
Bulk modulus	4,4	-	4,6	GPa
Poisson's ratio	0,33	-	0,407	
Yield strength (elastic limit)	48,6	-	72,4	MPa
Tensile strength	60	-	89,6	MPa
Compressive strength	* 99,4	-	123	MPa
Elongation	15	-	75	% strain
Hardness - Vickers	14,6	-	24,8	HV
Fatigue strength at 10 <sup>7</sup> cycles	21,5	-	26,5	MPa
Fracture toughness	3,54	-	4,51	MPa.m <sup>0.5</sup>
Mechanical loss coefficient (tan delta)	* 0,012	-	0,017	

**Thermal properties**

Melting point	160	-	184	°C
Glass temperature	-18,2	-	-8,15	°C
Maximum service temperature	76,9	-	96,9	°C
Minimum service temperature	-49,2	-	-40,2	°C
Thermal conductor or insulator?	Good insulator			
Thermal conductivity	0,213	-	0,248	W/m.°C
Specific heat capacity	1,36e3	-	1,43e3	J/kg.°C
Thermal expansion coefficient	110	-	198	µstrain/°C

**Electrical properties**

Electrical conductor or insulator?	Good insulator			
Electrical resistivity	3,3e20	-	3e21	µohm.cm
Dielectric constant (relative permittivity)	3,6	-	4	
Dissipation factor (dielectric loss tangent)	9e-4	-	0,0011	
Dielectric strength (dielectric breakdown)	17,1	-	22,6	MV/m

**Optical properties**

Transparency	Opaque			
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**Critical Materials Risk**

High critical material risk?	No			
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**Processability**

Castability	1	-	2	
Moldability	4	-	5	
Machinability	3	-	4	
Weldability	4	-	5	

**Durability: water and aqueous solutions**

Water (fresh)	Excellent			
Water (salt)	Excellent			
Soils, acidic (peat)	Excellent			
Soils, alkaline (clay)	Excellent			
Wine	Excellent			

**Durability: acids**

Acetic acid (10%)	Excellent			
Acetic acid (glacial)	Unacceptable			
Citric acid (10%)	Excellent			
Hydrochloric acid (10%)	Limited use			
Hydrochloric acid (36%)	Unacceptable			
Hydrofluoric acid (40%)	Unacceptable			
Nitric acid (10%)	Limited use			
Nitric acid (70%)				

	Unacceptable
Phosphoric acid (10%)	Limited use
Phosphoric acid (85%)	Unacceptable
Sulfuric acid (10%)	Unacceptable
Sulfuric acid (70%)	Unacceptable

**Durability: alkalis**

Sodium hydroxide (10%)	Excellent
Sodium hydroxide (60%)	Excellent

**Durability: fuels, oils and solvents**

Amyl acetate	Excellent
Benzene	Excellent
Carbon tetrachloride	Excellent
Chloroform	Limited use
Crude oil	Acceptable
Diesel oil	Excellent
Lubricating oil	Excellent
Paraffin oil (kerosene)	Excellent
Petrol (gasoline)	Excellent
Silicone fluids	Limited use
Toluene	Excellent
Turpentine	Excellent
Vegetable oils (general)	Excellent
White spirit	Excellent

**Durability: alcohols, aldehydes, ketones**

Acetaldehyde	Excellent
Acetone	Limited use
Ethyl alcohol (ethanol)	Excellent
Ethylene glycol	Excellent
Formaldehyde (40%)	Excellent
Glycerol	Excellent
Methyl alcohol (methanol)	Excellent

**Durability: halogens and gases**

Chlorine gas (dry)	Unacceptable
Fluorine (gas)	Unacceptable
O2 (oxygen gas)	Unacceptable
Sulfur dioxide (gas)	Unacceptable

**Durability: built environments**

Industrial atmosphere	Acceptable
Rural atmosphere	Excellent

Marine atmosphere	Excellent
UV radiation (sunlight)	Poor

### Durability: flammability

Flammability	Highly flammable
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### Durability: thermal environments

Tolerance to cryogenic temperatures	Unacceptable
Tolerance up to 150 C (302 F)	Acceptable
Tolerance up to 250 C (482 F)	Unacceptable
Tolerance up to 450 C (842 F)	Unacceptable
Tolerance up to 850 C (1562 F)	Unacceptable
Tolerance above 850 C (1562 F)	Unacceptable

### Primary material production: energy, CO2 and water

Embodied energy, primary production	81,8	-	90,2	MJ/kg
CO2 footprint, primary production	3,04	-	3,36	kg/kg
Water usage	* 240	-	260	l/kg

### Material processing: energy

Polymer extrusion energy	* 5,76	-	6,36	MJ/kg
Polymer molding energy	* 16,9	-	18,7	MJ/kg
Coarse machining energy (per unit wt removed)	* 1,25	-	1,38	MJ/kg
Fine machining energy (per unit wt removed)	* 8,22	-	9,08	MJ/kg
Grinding energy (per unit wt removed)	* 16	-	17,6	MJ/kg

### Material processing: CO2 footprint

Polymer extrusion CO2	* 0,432	-	0,477	kg/kg
Polymer molding CO2	* 1,27	-	1,4	kg/kg
Coarse machining CO2 (per unit wt removed)	* 0,0937	-	0,104	kg/kg
Fine machining CO2 (per unit wt removed)	* 0,616	-	0,681	kg/kg
Grinding CO2 (per unit wt removed)	* 1,2	-	1,32	kg/kg

### Material recycling: energy, CO2 and recycle fraction

Recycle	✓			
Embodied energy, recycling	* 34,5	-	38,2	MJ/kg
CO2 footprint, recycling	* 1,67	-	1,84	kg/kg
Recycle fraction in current supply	0,1			%
Downcycle	✓			
Combust for energy recovery	✓			
Heat of combustion (net)	* 15,5	-	16,3	MJ/kg
Combustion CO2	* 1,43	-	1,5	kg/kg
Landfill	✓			
Biodegrade	✗			
Toxicity rating	Non-toxic			

Arenewable resource?

**Environmental notes**

Acetal, like most thermoplastics, is an oil derivative, but this poses no immediate threat to its use.

**Recycle mark****Supporting information****Design guidelines**

POM is easy to mold by blow molding, injection molding or sheet molding, but shrinkage on cooling limits the minimum recommended wall thickness for injection molding to 0.1mm. As manufactured, POM is gray but it can be colored. It can be extruded to produce shapes of constant cross section such as fibers and pipes. The high crystallinity leads to increased shrinkage upon cooling. It must be processed in the temperature range 190-230 C and may require drying before forming because it is hygroscopic. Joining can be done using ultrasonic welding, but POM's low coefficient of friction requires welding methods that use high energy and long ultrasonic exposure; adhesive bonding is an alternative. POM is a good electrical insulator. Without coPolymerization or the addition of blocking groups, POM degrades easily.

**Technical notes**

The repeating unit of POM is  $-(CH_2O)_n$  and the resulting molecule is linear and highly crystalline. Consequently, POM is easily moldable, has good fatigue resistance and stiffness, and is water resistant. In its pure form, POM degrades easily by dePolymerization from the ends of the polymer chain by a process called 'unzipping'. The addition of 'blocking groups' at the ends of the polymer chains or coPolymerization with cyclic ethers such as ethylene oxide prevents unzipping and hence degradation.

**Typical uses**

POM is more expensive than commodity polymers such as PE, so is limited to high performance applications in which its natural lubricity is exploited. It is found in fuel-system, seat-belt components, steering columns, window-support brackets and handles, shower heads, ballcocks, faucet cartridges, and various fittings, quality toys, garden sprayers, stereo cassette parts, butane lighter bodies, zippers, telephone components, couplings, pump impellers, conveyor plates, gears, sprockets, springs, gears, cams, bushings, clips, lugs, door handles, window cranks, housings, seat-belt components, watch gears, conveyor links, aerosols, mechanical pen and pencil parts, milk pumps, coffee spigots, filter housings, food conveyors, cams, gears, TV tuner arms, automotive underhood components.

**Tradenames**

Acetron, Delrin, Fulton, Latan, Lupital, Plaslube, Tenac, Thermocomp, Ultraform

**Links**

ProcessUniverse

Producers

Reference