

Plastic in Action

Health & Medicine

Plastics power progress in modern medicine—enabling safer procedures, more effective treatments, and greater access to care. Sterile, lightweight, and adaptable, plastics make lifesaving innovations possible while helping healthcare providers work more efficiently and sustainably.



Single-use plastics used in face masks, gloves, hospital gowns, syringes, blood bags, and IV systems, reduce contamination risks



Expanded polystyrene (EPS) maintains temperature stability for transporting and preserving vaccines and medicines.



Flexible PVC medical tubing delivers oxygen, fluids, and medications safely.



Advanced polymers replicate parts of the human body for joint replacements, vascular stents, and reconstructive surgery.

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More than one million Americans work in jobs directly or indirectly connected to the plastics industry, spanning a wide range of sectors. From the engineers who design the machinery that manufactures essential plastic products, to the material suppliers distributing raw plastics, to the processors shaping materials into goods, and the recyclers giving used plastic a second life, the plastics supply chain is a vital aspect within both the U.S. and global economy.