

WHICH SYNTHETIC IS RIGHT?



Choosing the right synthetic substrate is critical to ensuring both performance and cost-efficiency. This chart compares four of the most commonly used synthetic polymers—Polypropylene (PP), Polyester (PET), Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), and Polystyrene (PS). Each material offers unique properties that make it suitable for specific applications. Many brands are known by name rather than their actual polymer type. Knowing what plastic polymer corresponds to each brand is critical to evaluating the fit. Use this side-by-side guide to match materials for your project.

	PP	PP	PVC	PS	PET
	Polypropylene Xquisite™	Polypropylene UniSyn®	Polyvinyl Chloride Rigid Vinyl (PVC)	Polystyrene Styrene	Polyester
TEAR RESISTANCE	☹️ Average	😊 Good	☹️ Average	☹️ Poor - Brittle	😊 Excellent
FOLDABILITY	😊 Excellent	😊 Good with Scoring	☹️ Poor - Ideal for Flat Applications	☹️ Flat Applications Only	☹️ Poor
WATER RESISTANCE	😊 Excellent	😊 Excellent	😊 Excellent	😊 Excellent	😊 Excellent
UV RESISTANCE	☹️ Average	☹️ Average	😊 Good	☹️ Indoor Use Only	😊 Excellent
CHEMICAL RESISTANCE¹	😊 Excellent	😊 Excellent	☹️ Average	☹️ Poor	😊 Good
THERMAL STABILITY	😊 Good	☹️ Average	☹️ Average	😊 Good	😊 Excellent
COST	😊 Low	😊 Low	😊 Low	😊 Low	☹️ High
RIGIDITY	Balanced - Semi-Rigid	Soft & Flexible	Good Rigidity	Good Rigidity	Excellent Rigidity
WHITE LEVEL	Warm White	Neutral White	Neutral White	Cool White	Warm White
COMMON USES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menus and Manuals • Produce/Deli Signage • Shelf Talkers/Danglers • Retail Displays • Maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menus and Manuals • Compliance Posters • IDs, Tags & Cards • Wristbands • Certificates & Documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage & Placards • Shelf Danglers/ Wobblers • Membership & Gift Cards • Door Hangers • Temporary License Plates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point-of-Purchase Signage • Backlit Displays • Push/Pull Graphics • Gift, Loyalty, Library Fundraising Cards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockout Tags • Gas Pump Talkers • Menus • Field & Safety Manuals • Parking Tags

¹ Chemical resistance is in relation to the polymer itself & not necessarily indicative of post print chemical resistance.

636.349.6401 | mgxdigital.com | sales@mgxdigital.com | Quality you can PRINT on.