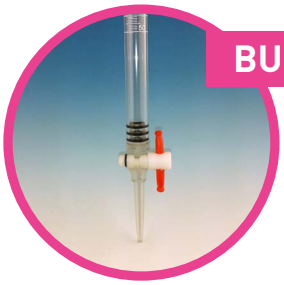
Lynn Thorne
Territory Sales Manager
South London/South of England

Lynn's Tech Guide on

A Guide to Using Plastics in the School Lab

If you are finding that a lot of your glassware gets broken far too easily it might be worth considering swapping to plastic for some classes or practicals. Here are some of our best examples of where you could switch to plastic – and many will save money too!

Acrylic Burettes – Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA)



BUR7103

PMMA is a rigid, transparent polymer which is an excellent alternative to plastic burettes, to minimise the safety risk associated with glass. PMMA has a narrow temperature range of -60 to +50oC, so it's not suitable for autoclaving but it has a good chemical resistance, making it suitable for most experiments except for those requiring the use of butyl acetate or acetone.

Measuring Cylinders – Polypropylene (PP)

CYL2120

These PP measuring cylinders have a large pouring spout which allow for easy dispensing – and if you go for the 'squat' design, they're less likely to tip over. These cylinders have an added draining hole in the base which aids draining in the dishwasher, preventing accidental spill is the prep room. The coloured printed markings make the graduation extremely easy to read.
Polypropylene has a wide temperature range, which means it can be autoclaved as its range is -20 to +135o C. It has a good chemical resistance, including sulphuric acid – but it cannot be used with toluene, acetone or benzene.

Low Form Beakers - Polymethylpentene (PMP)

BEA1310

PMP is a transparent rigid polymer, which has good chemical resistance and can be autoclaved with a temperature range of 20 to 145o – also complying with ISO 7056 standards. Graduations are easily visible as PMP has high clarity, with solvent resistant ink. Care should be taken using benzene.