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Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. What is the percentage of total North American plastics production that goes into the transportation market?

A. According to the Society of the **Plastics** Industry's 1998 edition of Facts and Figures, the following amount of **plastics** went into the transportation market: (millions of pounds)

Major Market	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Transportation	3221	3795	3916	3964	4102
Total	63636	70799	71194	78748	82715
%	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.0	5.0

2. Q. What is the weight percent of plastics in an automobile?

A. Although these figures vary from source to source, the following data, which are conservative, were obtained from the American Metal Market (Copyright 1998, Chilton Media, Inc.). Another source of where and how much **plastics** go into automobiles may be obtained from **Automotive Plastics** Report, published by Market Search, Inc., Toledo, OH.

Material	1977	1987	1992	1997	1998
Plastic	168.0	221.5	243.0	242.0	243.5
Total Veh. Weight	3665.5	3178.0	3135.5	3248.0	3261.5
%	4.6	7.0	7.7	7.5	7.5

3. Q. Where is polystyrene used in cars?

A. A small amount of PS foam (about 1.4 million pounds in 1999, 2.8 million pounds in 2004, and 3.7 million in 2009) will be used as side impact absorbers in cars produced in North America. Some PS foam was formerly used in headliners, but has been replaced with polyurethane foam.

4. Q. How much and in what applications is polypropylene used in automobiles?

A. Polypropylene (PP) is the largest volume thermoplastic used in automobiles. Shown below are data on the amount and applications of polypropylene used in North American automobiles.

North American Automobile Consumption of Polypropylene