Thermosetting Polymers Encyclopedia Article

Thermosetting Polymers

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Thermosetting Polymers

Thermosetting polymers are compounds that solidify, or "set," after cooling from the molten state and then cannot be remelted. Some typical thermosetting polymers are the epoxys, alkyds, polyurethanes, **furans**, silicones, polyesters, and phenolic **plastics**. Products made from thermosetting polymers include: radio cases, buttons, dinnerware, glass substitutes, paints, synthetic **rubber**, insulation, and synthetic body parts. Because they cannot be recycled and do not readily decompose, thermosetting polymers pose a serious environmental hazard. They contribute significantly, therefore, to the problem of **solid waste** disposal and, in some cases, pose a threat to **wildlife** who swallow or become ensnared in plastic materials.

See Also

Solid Waste Incineration; Solid Waste Recycling and Recovery; Solid Waste Volume Reduction