

HOW THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY RESPONDED TO COVID-19

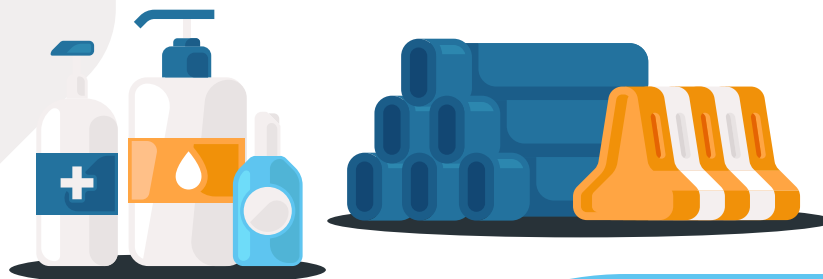


British Plastics Federation

Prior to COVID-19, less than 1% of PPE was manufactured in the UK but by December 2020 domestic supply is anticipated to meet 70% of forecasted demand in England for all categories of PPE.*

HAND SANITISER BOTTLES

- Typically made from PET.
- During the height of COVID-19, plastics companies were called upon to deliver over 50,000 bottles of hand sanitiser per week to the NHS.
- Over 20 BPF members are able to manufacture hand sanitiser bottles.
- Hand sanitiser bottles can be put in your recycling bin.



EMERGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Everything from a testing site to a Nightingale hospital requires a steady supply of plastic, including road barriers and construction products like flooring, insulation, pipes, windows and roofing.

FACE VISORS

- Typically made from PETG or PC.
- Over 30 UK companies manufacture the plastic screen itself, with a smaller number who construct the visors.
- UK plastics companies have the capacity to deliver over 3 million visors per week to the NHS.



APRONS

- 100+ companies in the UK produce the sheet itself, which is often LDPE or LLDPE.
- There are now at least four UK apron manufacturers.
- These companies repurposed their factories in response to COVID-19.
- BPF research shows that the UK has capacity to manufacture more than 100 million aprons per month.

FACE MASKS

- There are multiple grades of facemasks, with FFP3 providing the most protection.
- A highly specialised 'melt-blown' fabric material is used for many masks.
- Just one company in the UK makes FFP3 masks, with production beginning in mid-2020 in response to COVID-19.

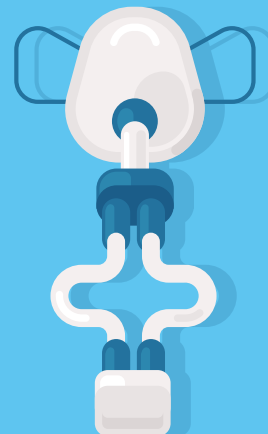


PLASTIC SCREENS

- These are mainly acrylic and have been used in shops and businesses around the UK.
- Over 20 BPF members can supply the sheet material, with several who manufacture the final screens.

CLINICAL WASTE SACKS

- Heavy duty sacks that are able to seal clinical waste safely are vital in times of emergency.
- Demand for these sacks has increased 170% since the start of COVID-19.



VENTILATORS

- Plastic is used in ventilators and other medical devices because it is biologically inert, lightweight and strong.
- Hospitals had 7,400 ventilators at the start of the lockdown and now have more than 30,000.
- UK plastic companies have been supplying parts, including tuning knobs and breathing tubing.

*Excluding gloves

www.bpf.co.uk/cv19

www.bpf.co.uk/sources