



**Formosa Plastics®**

# Polypropylene



## Formolene® Polypropylene Injection Molding Process Guidelines



# Injection Molding Process Guidelines

The following is given as a potential process starting point. The final molding process may be dependent upon factors like: part and tooling design, wall thickness, flow lengths, gate size, number of cavities, cycle time and desired level of molded part quality, for example.

## **Melt Temperature:**

400 – 470°F (200 – 250°C)

Set barrel temperatures, screw speed (60 to 125 rpm) and back pressure (50 to 200 psi) so that the melt temperature coming out of press nozzle is in the above range, i.e., temperature of an airshot using a needle thermoprobe.

## **Barrel Temperature:**

Rear: 390 - 440 °F (199 – 227 °C)

Middle: 390 – 450 °F (199 – 232 °C)

Front: 390 – 470 °F (199 – 250 °C)

## **Screw Speed:**

50 – 125 rpm

## **Back Pressure:**

50 – 200 psi

## **Mold Temperatures:**

60 – 120 °F (15 to 50 °C)

## **Cushion:**

0.25 inch maximum

## **Shot Size:**

40 – 60 % of barrel capacity

## **Injection Speed:**

As fast as possible without causing cosmetic defects

## **Pack / Hold Pressure:**

50 – 75 % of injection pressure

## **Hold Time:**

Until gate freeze achieved

## **Screw Type:**

Single stage general purpose

L/D ratio: 20:1 to 24:1

Compression ratio: 2.5:1 to 3:1

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Problems Observed	Possible Causes	Corrective Actions
<b>Black Specks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material Degradation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excessive melt temperature/residence time in barrel/runner system</li> <li>• Resin contamination</li> <li>• Excessive back pressure</li> <li>• Excessive screw speed</li> <li>• Material hanging up in barrel, screw flights, check ring, hot runner system</li> </ul>
<b>Brittle Parts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over packing</li> <li>• Excessive shrinkage</li> <li>• Molded in stress</li> <li>• Contamination</li> <li>• Resin degradation</li> <li>• Part design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce hold pressure/time</li> <li>• Adjust injection profile</li> <li>• Adjust melt/mold temperature</li> <li>• Incompatible concentrate carriers or additives.</li> <li>• Nucleation from pigments</li> <li>• Inadequate radii at corners, threads, bosses, ribs, notches.</li> </ul>
<b>Burning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compressed air/gas in mold</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean vents</li> <li>• Reduce injection speed/pressure</li> <li>• Add venting</li> <li>• Reduce melt temperature</li> </ul>
<b>Flash</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clamp Force too low</li> <li>• Mold surface deflecting</li> <li>• Mold shutoffs not seating</li> <li>• Parting line rolled</li> <li>• Vents too deep</li> <li>• Shot size too large</li> <li>• Injection/hold profile too high</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase clamp force</li> <li>• Clean mold surface</li> <li>• Check mold surface square</li> <li>• Check platen square</li> <li>• Check integrity of mold shutoffs</li> <li>• Decrease melt temperature</li> <li>• Reduce shot size</li> <li>• Repair parting line</li> <li>• Weld up vent depth</li> </ul>
<b>Gate blush</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melt Fracture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust injection speed (fast/slow)</li> <li>• Increase melt/mold temperatures</li> <li>• Resize gate</li> <li>• Add cold slug wells</li> </ul>
<b>Gate Stringing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient melt decompression</li> <li>• Gate too small/too large</li> <li>• Hot tip: too much contact/land too large</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase melt decompression</li> <li>• Increase melt decompression</li> <li>• Decrease melt temperature</li> <li>• Decrease hot drop and or manifold temperatures</li> <li>• Resize gate</li> <li>• Use valve gate</li> </ul>
<b>Poor Surface</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low gloss</li> <li>• Flow lines</li> <li>• Orange peel</li> <li>• Jetting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase cavity pressure</li> <li>• Adjust injection profile</li> <li>• Increase melt/mold temperature</li> <li>• Hot spot or cold spot in mold</li> <li>• Clean/polish mold surface</li> <li>• Add venting</li> <li>• Relocate or resize gate</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convergence of flow fronts around obstacle, rib, boss, hole.</li> <li>• Multi-flow fronts due to multi-gates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase injection speed</li> <li>• Increase hold pressure and time</li> <li>• Increase mold temperature</li> <li>• Increase melt temperature</li> <li>• Relocate gate</li> </ul>

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<b>Short Shot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underfilled part</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase injection speed/pressure</li> <li>• Increase shot size</li> <li>• Increase hold pressure/time</li> <li>• Increase melt/mold temperature</li> <li>• Inconsistent cushion</li> <li>• Foreign matter clogging nozzle/gates</li> <li>• Melt flow variation in resin</li> <li>• Improper venting</li> <li>• Plugged gate, runner or vent</li> <li>• Undersized gates, runners or vents</li> </ul>
<b>Shrinkage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume decreases as plastic cools and crystallizes</li> <li>• Part underpacked</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excessive Shrinkage – increase cavity pressure and hold time</li> <li>• Increase hold time</li> <li>• Decrease mold temperature</li> <li>• Decrease melt temperature</li> <li>• Verify consistent cushion</li> <li>• Wall thickness variation</li> <li>• Runner/gate too small</li> </ul>
<b>Sink Marks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part is underfilled</li> <li>• Excessive shrinkage in thicker sections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase shot size</li> <li>• Increase hold or cavity pressure</li> <li>• Increase hold time</li> <li>• Reduce fill rate</li> <li>• Decrease mold temperature</li> <li>• Decrease melt temperature</li> <li>• Maintain adequate cushion</li> <li>• Open gates</li> <li>• Reduce wall thickness of ribs/bosses</li> <li>• Relocate gate</li> </ul>
<b>Splay</b>	<p>Silver streaks on parts – volatiles on surface – out gassing, moisture, degraded material.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry material</li> <li>• Too much heat – barrel, mold</li> <li>• Improper gate/runner size</li> <li>• Improve venting</li> <li>• Cracked check ring</li> </ul>
<b>Sticking in Mold</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over/under packed part</li> <li>• Excessive shrinkage</li> <li>• Tool design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under packing – see short shot</li> <li>• Over packing – reduce injection pressure</li> <li>• Reduce hold pressure</li> <li>• Sticking on cores – run faster cycle</li> <li>• Sticking on cavities – run slower cycle</li> <li>• Improper temperature balance in mold</li> <li>• Improve ejection</li> <li>• Remove undercuts, die lock conditions</li> <li>• Increase draft angles</li> <li>• Surface irregularities – improve surface polish</li> <li>• Highly polished surface (vacuum lock) – use courser polish to break surface tension</li> <li>• Apply mold coating</li> </ul>
<b>Voids</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part underfilled</li> <li>• Excessive shrinkage</li> <li>• Wall thickness &gt; 0.25 inch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short shot</li> <li>• Part too thick</li> <li>• Injection speed too fast</li> <li>• Poor venting</li> <li>• Verify cushion</li> <li>• Relocate gate</li> </ul>
<b>Warpage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Molded in stress</li> <li>• Non-uniform cooling</li> <li>• Shrinkage</li> <li>• Overpacking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part ejected too hot</li> <li>• Part ejected non-uniformly</li> <li>• Adjust mold/melt temperatures</li> <li>• Lower injection speed and/or pressure</li> <li>• Minimize hot spots in mold</li> <li>• Relocate gating to minimize flow lengths</li> </ul>