



**iapd**  
international association  
of plastics distribution

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ABOUT  
IAPD GR

## ABOUT IAPD

The International Association of Plastics Distribution (IAPD), established in 1956, serves distributors, fabricators, resin manufacturers, manufacturers, manufacturers' representatives, associated products and services providers and recyclers via programs, education and services designed to reinforce the **value of distribution**, promote **environmental responsibility** and **create jobs** up and down the supply chain.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Expand the market for distributed plastics through collaboration, education and a commitment to sustainability.

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- **Distributors** purchase materials from the manufacturers and warehouse them so that they can offer them to fabricators and end-users at a moment's notice
- **Fabricators** provide services such as cutting, welding, gluing, forming, routing and polishing
- **Resin Manufacturers** supply the manufacturer with the raw material: plastic resin
- **Manufacturers** convert resin into shapes, sheets or pipes, valves and fittings
- **Manufacturers' Representatives** sell plastics on the behalf of one or more manufacturer
- **Associated Products and Services** provide equipment, software and other services to the other members of the supply chain
- **Recyclers** collect, process and redistribute usable plastics so they remain out of landfills and conserve the raw materials used in virgin plastics

## ABOUT PLASTICS

- Are a lighter-weight alternative to metal parts in automobiles and aircraft, contributing to major advances in fuel efficiency
- Are easy to sanitize for safe food processing
- Keep Americans safe, whether they are used in fire and safety helmets, airport screening areas, body armor or hurricane and storm shelters
- Have been delivering clean drinking water for more than seven decades via water systems
- When used in medical applications, an antimicrobial additive to plastics can prevent infection; plus, knee and hip replacements made from medical-grade plastics offer numerous advantages such as impact strength, abrasion resistance, fatigue resistance and crack resistance
- Contribute to greater efficiencies in a multitude of manufacturing and processing industries, because they're less likely to wear or break, plus they extend equipment life and are safer for workers
- Can be recycled into numerous products such as clothing, traffic cones, fencing, bottles and containers, keeping trash out of landfills and conserving raw materials



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## QUICK FACTS

- IAPD has 281 member companies, from small family-operated businesses to multi-national enterprises, with more than 1,600 operations worldwide
- The distribution market in the U.S. is approximately \$3.5 billion for the segment of the supply chain represented by IAPD
- There are IAPD member companies in 48 states, plus Canada and Mexico
- A survey of members showed that:
  - 85.5 percent have a program to minimize waste
  - 70 percent recycle plastic scrap
  - 87 percent recycle non-plastic materials
  - 65 percent market green plastics
- IAPD members are installing solar panels and investing in high-efficiency lighting
- IAPD has a dedicated Environmental Committee committed to championing the green efforts of member companies
- All IAPD members acknowledge and abide by the IAPD Code of Ethics: [http://www.iapd.org/about\\_iapd/code-of-ethics.cfm](http://www.iapd.org/about_iapd/code-of-ethics.cfm)
- The plastics industry is the third largest manufacturing industry in the United States\*
- In 2011, the U.S. plastics industry accounted for \$380.4 billion dollars in annual shipments, a 12 percent increase from 2010, and employed nearly 900,000 people in more than 16,200 facilities\*
- In 2011, the U.S. plastics industry exported goods valued at \$58.6 billion; the U.S. plastics industry enjoys a positive trade balance of \$16.3 billion\*

## IAPD IS NOT

IAPD member companies are not involved in the production of single-use plastics, such as supermarket shopping bags; rather, they product long-lasting, engineering-grade plastics that are a more environmentally friendly alternative to metal or glass.

\* Source: [www.plasticsindustry.org](http://www.plasticsindustry.org)