



Understanding PLASTICS

What are plastics?

Plastics are basically synthetic substances which, under heat and pressure, can be shaped, cast in a mould, or extruded as rods or tubes. The application of plastics is almost limitless, as evidenced by their increasing use in the automotive components from consoles to bumper bars.

Plastics generally fall into two broad categories: thermoplastics and thermosets. Thermoplastics are plastics that can be remoulded if heated to their thermoforming temperature, often used for toys, plumbing pipe and a large proportion of automotive interior fixtures. Thermosets, on the other hand, do not melt with heat. Examples of thermosets are plastic laminate benchtops and fibreglass reinforced polyester resins used for boats. Steering wheels, headrests and armrests are termed 'reaction injection moulded' (RIM) plastics and come under the category of thermosets.

How can I care for plastic?

Many plastics break down with age, primarily due to exposure to heat and sunlight. Windscreen shields and tinted windows help to protect automotive plastics from fading and cracking. Beware of using strong solvents to clean plastics because some plastics will begin to dissolve or blume on contact.

Can damaged plastic be repaired?

Yes! The most common problem occurring with plastics is accidental damage. Scratches, gouges, holes and cracks in plastics are a repair speciality of New Life Repairs. With combinations of heat, solvent, and adhesive fusion, excellent results can be achieved on most plastics, whether thermoplastic or thermoset. Colours can be renewed for a fresh look.

Service can usually be carried out on-site for your convenience.

There are plastic cleaners and protectors that can extend the life and preservation of your plastics.

Contact your local New Life Repairs for fast, friendly service and an obligation-free quote.

p: (+613) 9873 7745

a: Unit 5/634-644 Mitcham Road, Vermont Vic 3133

w: www.newliferepairs.com.au

e: contactus@newliferepairs.com.au

