

## Notes on Plastics

The best suggestion I have here is to have your students work through the tutorial on the Hands On Plastics web site.

[http://teachingplastics.org/hands\\_on\\_plastics/activities/index.html](http://teachingplastics.org/hands_on_plastics/activities/index.html) It will take them through the density tests as well as the burn test results. You can get free recyclable 1-6 plastics from [www.handsonplastics.com](http://www.handsonplastics.com). But order early because they have lots of requests and run out.

There is also a site with tips for teachers:

[http://teachingplastics.org/hands\\_on\\_plastics/intro\\_to\\_plastics/teachers.html](http://teachingplastics.org/hands_on_plastics/intro_to_plastics/teachers.html)

Besides the site with the interactive tutorial, there are more activities at:

[http://teachingplastics.org/hands\\_on\\_plastics/intro\\_to\\_plastics/students.html](http://teachingplastics.org/hands_on_plastics/intro_to_plastics/students.html)

Be careful with the density labs. If plastics have coloring or other fillers in them, then the density part of the lab may not work out. For instance with enough coloring in the plastic, a polystyrene may have a density less than 1 and float in water. However it will still soften in acetone.