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With all the styles, sizes and options available for plastic containers, it can be a challenge to choose the right one for your application. This guide will help you through the process by providing you with the basic information needed to select a container, including details on construction and other features. For more assistance, call Akro-Mils Customer Service at **800-253-2467**.

Benefits of Plastic Containers:

Useful for inventory control and employee productivity. Ideal for JIT, Kanban, 5S, and Lean Manufacturing. Many of these are 100% recyclable.

Types of Materials:

Polypropylene, Polystyrene and Polyethylene:

The most common materials used for plastic containers. The design of the container and the purpose of the container typically dictate which material the manufacturer uses. Each are strong, lightweight and resistant to mild chemicals.

Corrugated Plastic:

Lightweight sheet plastic folded over a metal frame.

Polycarbonate:

Crystal clear, extremely durable material with high impact and temperature resistance.

Recycled Plastic:

Nearly as strong as containers that are made from virgin materials, these may be made from post-industrial or post-consumer plastics. Ideal for customers who have "green" initiatives.

ESD: (Electrostatic Dissipative)

Designed to protect sensitive parts from static charge, ESD containers are ideal for use in cleanrooms and workstations. Unlike "Conductive" bins, which require the containers and racks to be grounded with a metal strap, dissipative materials do not need to be grounded. ESD containers are clean and retain their properties because the dissipative materials are permanently molded in. This is in contrast to conductive containers, which lose their properties over time and if made with black carbon can dirty their contents.

Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic:

Plastic filled with Fiberglass material has high impact resistance, high weight capacity, and is suitable for use in high-temperature applications.

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Product Features and Accessories:
Many of the products incorporate several of these features.

Hopper Front Container:
This is the most common type of bin. A section of the front is open, so the user can easily reach in to pick parts. Typically used on shelving.

Uniform Height Container:
All four walls on these bins are equal height; there is no hopper. User can fill these to near the top rim. Typically carried or transported.

Hanging:
Bins have a "lip" on the back of the bin that allows the bin to hang from a rack or panel.

Stacking:
Bins may be placed on top of another to save space on the floor, pallet or bench top. Some stacking bins require a lid to stack securely, while others do not. Some include a hopper front so parts can still be retrieved while bins are stacked.

Nesting:
When empty, each bin slides down inside the other, which saves space when not in use, or when in return transit.

Dividers and Cups:
Dividers allow you to create customizable compartment sizes. Some bins divide front-to-back, others divide side-to-side, and some will do both. Cups lift out easily for parts retrieval.

Lids:
Some lids are attached to the container to prevent loss; other lids are removable so they can be used when needed. Lids can provide security or dust protection.

Labels and Label Holders:
Used to organize and identify inventory. Removable card stock in plastic sleeves, clip-on label holders, extended label holders.