

## PROCESSING TECHNIQUES

Many different processes are used to make plastics into useful shapes. The processes used to mold or shape thermoplastics basically soften the material so it can be:

- Injected into a mold
- extruded through a die
- formed in/over a mold

**Thermoplastics** can be reheated, reformed, and reused to produce new materials.

**Thermosets** must use a process that allows the *material to liquefy and flow* into the designated shape and become polymerized or cross-linked and rigid. The material cannot be re-melted or recycled after cross-linking occurs.