

Styrofoam Polymer Notes

Vocabulary:

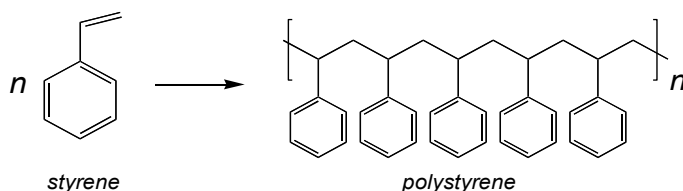
Monomer: one molecule that makes up the links of a large molecule.

Polymer: a large molecule made by a chain of smaller molecules.

Solute: the part that is dissolved (solid)

Solvent: the part that does the dissolving (liquid)

- Styrofoam is a name for a material called polystyrene, which is a polymer made up of a long chain of molecules. C_8H_8



- Styrofoam is made from a special process where air is blown into liquid polystyrene. (see little pockets of air)
- The trapped air pockets make it a good heat insulator.
- The acetone is a solvent that breaks down the polystyrene, and releases the air pockets.
- The polystyrene dissolves into the acetone.
- It becomes a liquid, but then it "coagulates" into a solid.