

Electronic supplementary information

Table ESI 1: the size of spherical polymer particles predicted to have a settling/floating velocity of $4.6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ (equivalent to an overflow velocity of $40 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$). Particles above this size are predicted to be removed by density-driven separation during primary sedimentation. See the manuscript for more details.

Polymer	Density of solid ($\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$)	Density of water ($\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$)	Dynamic viscosity of water ($\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$)	Critical particle diameter (μm)
Expanded polystyrene	25	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	30
Low-density polyethylene	910	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	98
High-density polyethylene	960	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	149
Polypropylene	875	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	83
Polystyrene	1070	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	109
Polyethylene terephthalate	1205	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	64
Polyamide	1090	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	96
Polyvinylchloride	1370	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	48
Acrylic	1145	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	76
Polycarbonate	1210	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	63
Polyurethane	1200	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	65
Alkyd	1670	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	36
Polyester	1770	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	33
Polyoximethylene	1510	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	41
polyvinyl alcohol	1250	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	58
Polytetrafluoroethylene	2200	998.2	1.002×10^{-3}	27