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POLY

Polycarbonate was the original high index lens material and was introduced in 1983. It provided the ability to make thinner and lighter lenses. It has great impact resistance, but poor optical qualities as compared to newer technological breakthroughs, such as high index polyurethane plastic 1.60 and 1.66 lenses.

Poly is lighter than normal plastic. It has a less tendency to irritate your nose or leave red marks on your nose where the glasses touch your nose. Poly blocks UV rays, is shatter resistant and is used in sport glasses and glasses for children and teenagers. Because poly is soft and will scratch easily, scratch resistant coating is typically applied. Along with trivex and hi index, poly is an excellent choice for rimless eyeglasses.

PROS:

- Lighter and thinner than plastic or glass
- Highly impact resistant
- UV protection

CONS:

- Poor optical qualities
- More lens distortion than glass, plastic or hi index
- Susceptible to stress fractures in drill mounts
- Less scratch resistant than other hi index lenses
- Does not readily accept tint

Material	Index	ABBE	Specific Gravity	UVB/ UVA
Plastic	1.50	58	1.32	100% 90%
Poly	1.58	30	1.20	100% 100%
Trivex	1.53	44	1.11	100% 100%
1.60 (MR-8)	1.60	41	1.30	100% 100%
1.60 (MR-6)	1.60	36	1.34	100% 100%
1.67 (MR-7)	1.67	32	1.35	100% 100%
1.67 (MR-10)	1.67	32	1.37	100% 100%
1.70	1.70	36	1.41	100% 100%
1.74	1.74	33	1.47	100% 100%