



How Infor helps manufacturers of plastics and resins control operating and raw material costs

As a manufacturer of resins, plastics (or polymers), or synthetic rubber, you know how fluctuations in oil prices can affect your business. Because your raw materials are oil based and subject to crude oil and natural gas prices, you need the right scheduling tools to make sure you have the raw materials you need—purchased at the best price—and the right equipment ready at the right time.

How infor solutions can help

Infor Chemicals is a purpose-built software suite that can help manufacturers of plastics and resins control raw material and operational costs, while also competing on a global scale. This proven solution gives you the tools you need to efficiently produce plastics or resins for use in automotive or aircraft parts, textiles, and telecommunication, computer, and construction equipment.

With Infor Chemicals, you get tools to help you:

Plan for fluctuating commodity pricing—When prices go up, you can't necessarily pass those increases to your customers. Because of the volatility of commodity pricing for crude oil and natural gas, a relatively small change can have a significant impact on your profitability. Meanwhile, the production of resins can vary from year to year, making demand needs challenging to predict.



With Infor Chemicals' material planning tools, you can accurately calculate raw material requirements to guide your buyers on how much of a specific raw material needs to be purchased, as well as the date when the purchase should be made. The automatic generation of raw material requirements—based on the demand plan—provides a clear purchase requirements plan, easing communication with suppliers and allowing your buyers to focus their time on obtaining the best price.

Anticipate complex customer needs—With long contracts, low margins, and customers who are used to working closely with you, you must have full visibility into your supply and costs. With Infor Chemicals' sophisticated supply chain planning capabilities, you can optimize your manufacturing and distribution by predicting demand with more certainty using daily and seasonal forecasting, replenishment planning, inventory optimization, and promotional planning. As a result, you can respond faster to changes in customer demand to avoid both out-of-stock and overstock situations. In addition, Infor's industry-focused ERP solution lets you build an overall plan that not only optimizes your profitability, but also speeds time to market and improves overall customer satisfaction.

Manage a global supply chain—To compete on a global scale, your plants and co-packers must operate in the most ideal locations—globally or locally. But environmental concerns can place a greater emphasis on recyclability, toxicity, and energy efficiency. This can affect the production and end-use of your products. At the same time, these environmental concerns are opening up new revenue streams where your customers want more lightweight vehicle parts, for example, or energy-efficient building materials.

With Infor Chemicals, you get the right balance between demand and supply—from forecast through to production planning and scheduling.

The supply chain management features in Infor Chemicals can help you to handle your capacity and supply chain constraints, while managing multiple plants and distribution centers. With Infor Chemicals, you get the right balance between demand and supply—from forecast through to production planning and scheduling. You'll be able to collaborate more easily with customers, partners, and suppliers, and manage the complexity of your supply chain with end-to-end optimization to drive profit margins, meet customer expectations, and open new lines of business—around the world.

By creating a database of your raw materials and other supply needs, Infor Chemicals can help you to ensure that your facilities meet all regulations and compliance mandates for how and where your products are manufactured, stored, and distributed, while reducing and safely disposing of waste. This solution gives you visibility into the supply chain materials you need so you can keep costs under control and maintain efficient operations. And, in the event of an emergency or recall, Infor's tools can help you to speed up decision-making to reduce the costs associated with such an event.

Improve the utilization of equipment resources—

Your equipment is capital-intensive and a huge investment for your manufacturing plants. Infor Chemicals provides powerful scheduling tools to help with the selection of the best machine within a group of possible machines for each order—from reaction vessels to spinnerets. For any type of plastic or resin, you need to run a specific machine in a specific sequence. Unexpected changeovers are undesirable, but they're not impossible to manage with Infor Chemicals. After selecting the right machine, Infor Chemicals can help you sequence operations for different orders scheduled on that piece of equipment to minimize changeover times.

As in all equipment-intensive environments, asset maintenance is key. Breakdowns and unplanned downtime during seasonal peaks are a threat to profitability. To ease this pain, Infor offers enterprise asset management (EAM) capabilities that can be used to track assets and plan preventative maintenance at suitable times to improve reliability and avoid the risk of unplanned production downtime. **Infor EAM** can also track and manage energy usage, so you can save on costs and boost your organization's sustainability credentials.

How you benefit

With Infor Chemicals, you can handle your demand capacity for plastics and resins, while managing complex customer orders. You'll be able better meet customer expectations and prepare for changing governmental regulations. You can balance demand and supply so you can make better, smarter, and more accurate decisions about your equipment utilization, business plans, raw materials sourcing, and supply chain—globally and locally.

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641 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10011

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