Types of Materials used in Packaging

Material	Use	Appearance	Properties	Temp. Tolerance
Polypropylene	The most common takeout packaging material, used for chicken roasters, deli tubs, bakery and MW takeout containers. Often used w/an OPS dome, although some companies use PP for domes and lids. Used for some beverage containers. Excellent for ready-to-heat.	Usually made in black or clear. If clear, it's easily made into many shapes, sizes & compartments and molded with design elements.	Very rigid, crack-resistant. Can be coated with anti-fog material to retain clarity.	Preferred material for microwave and hot case. Can resist temperatures up to 220-240F. Bones, high-fat foods that retain extra heat will not burn through.
OPS/HIPS	Versatile because one SKU can be used for sandwiches, salads, bakery, deli, produce and catering. Popular for platter domes, hinged-lid for sandwiches.	Crystal clear, excellent for merchandising. Can also be black.	Stiff but not brittle. Offers superior leak resistance and can be coated with anti-fog material to retain clarity when used in cold cases.	Best for cold case and room temperature applications. Can withstand temperatures of up to 150F. Can hold hot foods but should not be put in an oven, hot case or microwave (except as a dome)
CPET	Frozen dinner trays and takeout entree containers that need to be heated. Good for merchandising in the freezer, hot or cold cases.	Often black, but can be other colors.	A lot of design flexibility - Can be ridged, indented, formed into multi-compartmented units. Good crack resistance when frozen.	Dual-ovenable with wide temperature range - can be heated in regular oven to 400F or frozen to -40F.
PETE	Especially good for merchandising cold foods, snack items and bakery items. Used for deli, produce, catering. Good clamshell for sandwiches. Used as domes for cakes, pies, party platters. Good for drinking cups. Excellent for	Extremely high clarity. PETE can be colored.	Durable, tough, clear. Flexible water-bottle material. Creates durable hinges. Can also be made into two-piece containers. Will flex rather than crack under weight of food. Resist's cracking in the freezer.	Moderate temperature resistance. Starts to melt before 140F. Not recommend for use in oven, hot case or microwave.