

20 Addition polymerisation — Part 2 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after trying the questions yourself.

20.1 It cannot be broken down by microbes (decomposers).

20.2 They have strong, unreactive C–C and C–H bonds that microbes cannot break, so they are not broken down.

20.3 Hydrogen chloride (HCl).

20.4 Any two of: recycle them; incinerate them (using the heat for energy); develop biodegradable plastics; reduce/reuse.

20.5 They can be broken down by microbes, so they do not build up as waste in the environment.

20.6 Their strong, unreactive C–C and C–H bonds make poly(alkene)s tough, stable and long-lasting — ideal for many uses. But those same unreactive bonds mean microbes cannot break them down, so the waste is non-biodegradable and persists in the environment.