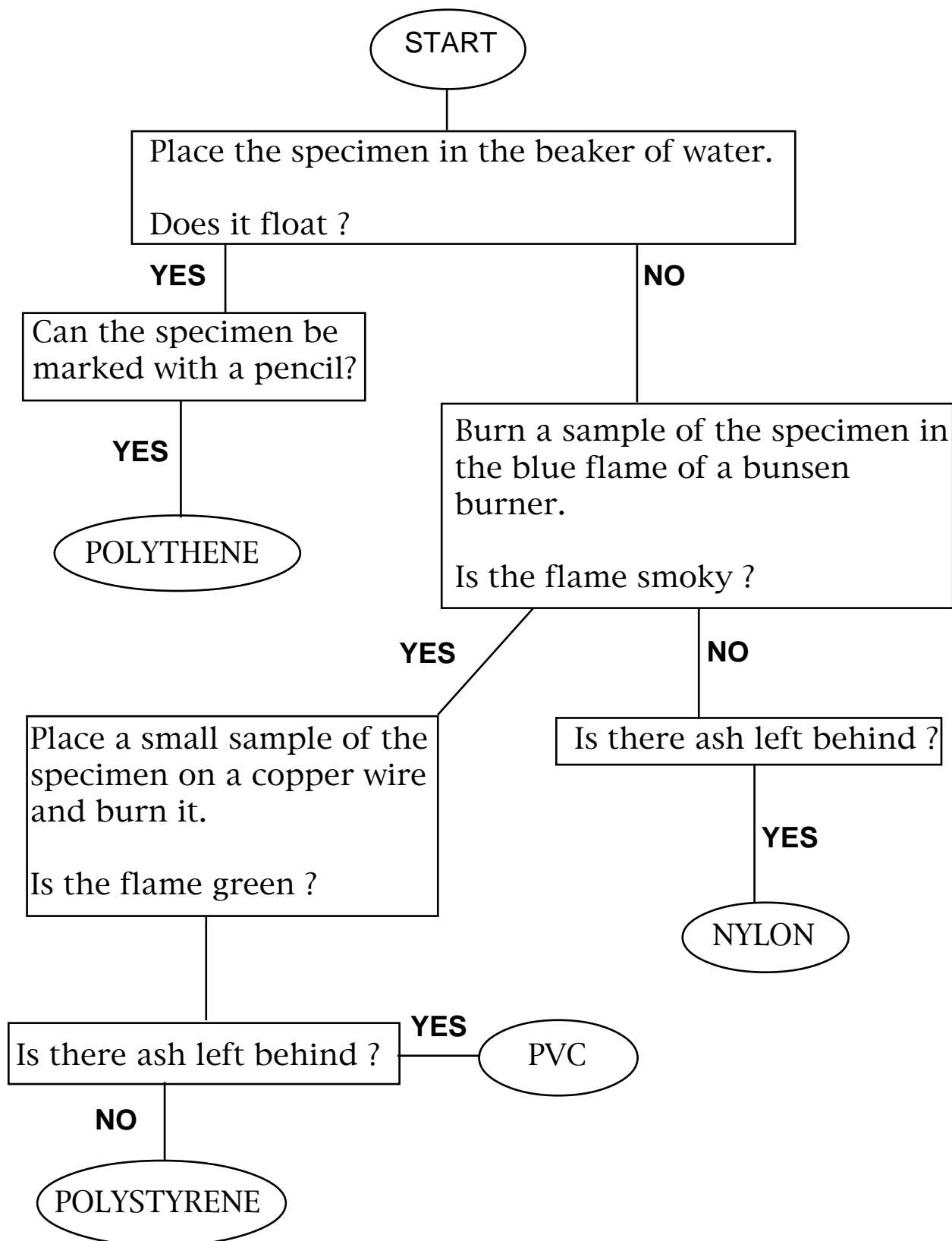


Work through the flow chart, filling in your answers as you go.
(If you have time, you can check that the tests work with the genuine samples provided)



The plastic scrap is made of _____

A plastic problem • notes • notes

The aim of the clue is to identify a small sample of plastic that was collected by the police at the scene of the crime. This turns out to be unrelated to the suspect and does not form part of the evidence. Nevertheless, you can always invite speculation.....

The children should work through the flowchart to identify that the sample is a piece of **PVC**.

You will need a fresh beaker of water and pieces of copper wire shaped into loops for each group - these can be prepared in advance to speed things up.

Requirements

Samples of plastic are available from Aldrich Chemicals - or the school may already have some available.

Pyrex beakers of water

HB pencils

thick copper wire shaped into loops

Bunsen burners

tongs

NB

Surface tension may cause the plastics to float initially. You may need to give them a small push!

As with the other clues, it helps to make the samples as similar as possible, so that they can't just be identified visually.