Living in plastic houses possible thanks to Mexican and Tec graduate

Living in a house **made 100% from plastic** is now possible thanks to a company started by Mexican engineer Ramón Espinosa Solís and promoted by **Tec graduate** Ricardo Montemayor López.

The company is named **Polímeros de Saltillo** (Saltillo Polymers) and is focused on the manufacturing of **products based on a mixture of polymers.**

This makes it possible to obtain slabs for building **functional homes** with greater durability and at a lower production cost than that of a conventional home.

According to its founders, this project aims to *"offer decent housing and help **reduce plastic** that pollutes the environment.*"


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Everything made from plastic

Since 2010, Ramón has been working on creating a material from which houses could be built using **recycled components.**

*“The trend was heading towards increased plastic production, and we realized that it needed to be **used appropriately**,”* he explained.

In this way, he sought to prevent **over-exploitation of other resources** that are used in the construction industry.

According to Ramón and Ricardo, this initiative provides an immediate solution to **waste generation in cities, the countryside, and the industrial sector.**

“We turn plastic into something essential in order to help people and the environment.”

To obtain this material, they take collected plastic and put it through a crushing process by using a mill. They then apply heat, force it to cool, and press it to **obtain a slab.**

*“Our process enables us to handle different polymers with different fluidity. We make mixtures to **standardize the quality** of the final product,”* they pointed out.


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Home sweet home

Through their manufacturing process, Ramón and Ricardo make sure that the plastics they use don’t contain any type of **elements that are harmful** to health.

What’s more, they explained that building with this material leads to several benefits compared to other types of houses.

*“These houses have greater durability and require less maintenance, as well as having **thermal and acoustic properties**,”* they explained.

According to Ramón, construction costs **are reduced by up to 30%** compared to conventional houses.

*“**You save energy** due to its thermal properties, it doesn’t require any type of coating, and paint adheres easily,”* he added.

While completion of a regular building can take up to six months on average, building with material from Polímeros de Saltillo reduces this to 7 or 8 weeks.

“The foundation is lighter, and it has the capacity to absorb earthquakes. In short, ***you’re living in ideal conditions****,”* they said.

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“We turn plastic into something essential ***to help people and the environment****,”* said Ramón.

Although the project began in Guadalajara, Jalisco, it has now moved to Saltillo, Coahuila, due to its **strategic geographical location** from its proximity to cities such as Monterrey and the border with the United States.

“These days, it’s more commonplace for people to know about the ***environment*** *and the importance of a project like this,”* they concluded.

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