

Dissolvable Packaging Market Forecasts to 2034 – Global Analysis By Material Type (Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA), Starch-Based Materials, Surfactants, Fibers, and Other Material Types), Product Type, Solubility Type, Barrier Properties, Technology Type, End User and By Geography

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Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Dissolvable Packaging Market is accounted for \$3.2 billion in 2026 and is expected to reach \$8.5 billion by 2034 growing at a CAGR of 13.0% during the forecast period. Dissolvable packaging is materials, primarily water-soluble polymers and bio-based compounds, that break down completely when exposed to water or specific environmental conditions. This innovative packaging solution eliminates solid waste, reduces plastic pollution, and offers controlled release of contents such as detergents, agrochemicals, and pharmaceutical doses. By dissolving entirely without leaving microplastics or toxic residues, these packages support circular economy goals, enhance user convenience, and minimize handling risks. As sustainability mandates tighten globally, dissolvable packaging is gaining traction across household, food, and industrial sectors.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Growing environmental regulations against single-use plastics

Governments worldwide are implementing stringent bans on non-biodegradable plastics and imposing extended producer responsibility mandates. Dissolvable packaging offers

a viable alternative as it leaves no permanent waste, aligning perfectly with zero-waste policies. The European Union's Plastic Waste Directive and similar regulations in North America and Asia are forcing manufacturers to rethink conventional packaging. Dissolvable materials, especially PVA and starch-based films, help companies achieve compliance while maintaining functional performance for single-dose applications like detergent pods and food sachets. This regulatory push is accelerating research and commercial adoption across multiple end-user industries.

Restraint:

Limited moisture resistance and shelf-life stability

Dissolvable packaging is inherently sensitive to ambient humidity and accidental water exposure, which can trigger premature dissolution or degradation during storage and transport. Maintaining product integrity in high-humidity climates or refrigerated conditions requires specialized barrier coatings or multi-layer structures, increasing production complexity and cost. Furthermore, many dissolvable materials have shorter shelf lives compared to traditional plastics, limiting their use for long-term food or pharmaceutical storage. These performance limitations restrict market penetration in applications requiring extended durability, and overcoming them demands continuous material science innovation.

Opportunity:

Expansion of single-dose formats in household and healthcare sectors

The rising consumer preference for pre-measured, convenient, and mess-free products is driving demand for pods, capsules, and sachets. Laundry detergent pods have already demonstrated commercial success, and similar formats are emerging for dishwashing, personal care, and pharmaceutical unit doses. Dissolvable packaging enables precise dosing, reduces product waste, and eliminates direct skin contact with concentrated chemicals. As healthcare providers adopt unit-dose packaging to improve patient compliance and reduce cross-contamination, dissolvable solutions offer a compelling value proposition. This trend opens significant growth avenues for customized dissolvable films and thermoformed packaging.

Threat:

Potential for incomplete dissolution and residue concerns

Some dissolvable materials, particularly those based on certain polyvinyl alcohol grades or natural polymers, may leave behind insoluble residues or require specific water temperatures and agitation levels to fully break down. In cold water wash cycles or low-flow drainage systems, incomplete dissolution can lead to clogging, surface residues on products, or microplastic-like fragments that negate environmental benefits. Negative consumer experiences or regulatory scrutiny over residue claims could damage brand reputation and slow adoption. Manufacturers must invest in rigorous testing and clear usage instructions to ensure reliable performance across real-world conditions.

Covid-19 Impact

The COVID-19 pandemic initially disrupted the dissolvable packaging market due to supply chain interruptions and shifting priorities toward medical supplies. However, heightened hygiene awareness accelerated demand for single-dose, no-touch packaging formats such as dissolvable sachets for sanitizers and unit-dose pharmaceuticals. E-commerce growth during lockdowns also increased the need for lightweight, space-efficient packaging. While raw material supply faced temporary constraints, the crisis underscored the value of dissolvable packaging in reducing contamination risk and simplifying disposal. As the economy recovers, sustained focus on hygiene and sustainability continues to drive market expansion.

The polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period, due to its excellent film-forming properties, tunable solubility in cold or hot water, and strong mechanical strength. It is the primary material used in laundry and dishwasher detergent pods, which represent a high-volume application. PVA also offers good barrier properties against oils and solvents while remaining non-toxic and biodegradable under appropriate conditions.

The pods & capsules segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the pods & capsules segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate, due to the rapid expansion of automatic dishwashing and laundry unit-dose formats across developed and emerging markets. Consumers value the convenience, spill prevention, and accurate dosing offered by pre-packaged pods.

Additionally, the healthcare industry is increasingly adopting capsule-based dissolvable packaging for vitamins, probiotics, and single-use pharmaceutical preparations.

Region with largest share:

During the forecast period, the North America region is expected to hold the largest market share, due to early adoption of automatic dishwashing and laundry pods, led by major brands like Procter & Gamble and Church & Dwight. Stringent state-level plastic bans in California, New York, and other states encourage dissolvable alternatives. The region's robust healthcare and personal care sectors further drive demand.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR, fueled by rapid urbanization, rising middle-class disposable incomes, and increasing adoption of automatic washing machines in countries like China, India, and Southeast Asia. Governments are implementing plastic waste reduction policies, with China's plastic ban and India's Swachh Bharat mission creating fertile ground for dissolvable packaging.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Dissolvable Packaging Market include Kuraray Co., Ltd., MonoSol LLC, Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, Aicello Corporation, Mondi Group, Aquapak Polymers Ltd., Solubag, Cortec Corporation, Arrow Greentech Limited, Soltec Development SAS, Soluble Technology Limited, Rovi Packaging S.A., ECOPOL, and Smart Solve Industries.

Key Developments:

In March 2026, Aquapak Polymers Ltd. partnered with a European packaging converter to launch a fully recyclable and dissolvable paper coating solution, replacing conventional polyethylene coatings for food wrappers. The partnership aims to commercialize the technology across quick-service restaurants by 2028.

In January 2026, Kuraray announced the expansion of its water-soluble polyvinyl alcohol film production capacity in Texas, USA, targeting a 25% increase to meet growing demand from the North American detergent pod market. The new line is expected to begin operations by Q3 2027.

Material Types Covered:

Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA)

Starch-Based Materials

Surfactants

Fibers

Other Material Types

Product Types Covered:

Films & Wraps

Bags

Pouches

Pods & Capsules

Sachets

Dissolvable Labels

Solubility Types Covered:

Cold Water Soluble

Warm Water Soluble

Hot Water Soluble

Barrier Properties Covered:

High Barrier

Medium Barrier

Low Barrier

Moisture Barrier

Oxygen Barrier

Multi-Barrier

Technology Types Covered:

Extrusion Blow Molding

Cast Film Extrusion

Blown Film Extrusion

Injection Molding

Thermoforming

Solution Casting

End Users Covered:

Household & Consumer Care

Food & Beverage

Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals

Agriculture & Agrochemicals

Personal Care

Industrial Applications

Regions Covered:

North America

US

Canada

Mexico

Europe

Germany

UK

Italy

France

Spain

Rest of Europe

Asia Pacific

Japan

China

India

Australia

New Zealand

South Korea

Rest of Asia Pacific

South America

Argentina

Brazil

Chile

Rest of South America

Middle East & Africa

Saudi Arabia

UAE

Qatar

South Africa

Rest of Middle East & Africa

What our report offers:

- Market share assessments for the regional and country-level segments
- Strategic recommendations for the new entrants
- Covers Market data for the years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2032 and 2034
- Market Trends (Drivers, Constraints, Opportunities, Threats, Challenges, Investment Opportunities, and recommendations)
- Strategic recommendations in key business segments based on the market estimations
- Competitive landscaping mapping the key common trends
- Company profiling with detailed strategies, financials, and recent developments

- Supply chain trends mapping the latest technological advancements

Free Customization Offerings:

All the customers of this report will be entitled to receive one of the following free customization options:

Company Profiling

Comprehensive profiling of additional market players (up to 3)

SWOT Analysis of key players (up to 3)

Regional Segmentation

Market estimations, Forecasts and CAGR of any prominent country as per the client's interest (Note: Depends on feasibility check)

Competitive Benchmarking

Benchmarking of key players based on product portfolio, geographical presence, and strategic alliances

Contents

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Market Snapshot and Key Highlights
- 1.2 Growth Drivers, Challenges, and Opportunities
- 1.3 Competitive Landscape Overview
- 1.4 Strategic Insights and Recommendations

2 RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 Study Objectives and Scope
- 2.2 Stakeholder Analysis
- 2.3 Research Assumptions and Limitations
- 2.4 Research Methodology
 - 2.4.1 Data Collection (Primary and Secondary)
 - 2.4.2 Data Modeling and Estimation Techniques
 - 2.4.3 Data Validation and Triangulation
 - 2.4.4 Analytical and Forecasting Approach

3 MARKET DYNAMICS AND TREND ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Market Definition and Structure
- 3.2 Key Market Drivers
- 3.3 Market Restraints and Challenges
- 3.4 Growth Opportunities and Investment Hotspots
- 3.5 Industry Threats and Risk Assessment
- 3.6 Technology and Innovation Landscape
- 3.7 Emerging and High-Growth Markets
- 3.8 Regulatory and Policy Environment
- 3.9 Impact of COVID-19 and Recovery Outlook

4 COMPETITIVE AND STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 Porter's Five Forces Analysis
 - 4.1.1 Supplier Bargaining Power
 - 4.1.2 Buyer Bargaining Power
 - 4.1.3 Threat of Substitutes
 - 4.1.4 Threat of New Entrants

- 4.1.5 Competitive Rivalry
- 4.2 Market Share Analysis of Key Players
- 4.3 Product Benchmarking and Performance Comparison

5 GLOBAL DISSOLVABLE PACKAGING MARKET, BY MATERIAL TYPE

- 5.1 Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA)
- 5.2 Starch-Based Materials
- 5.3 Surfactants
- 5.4 Fibers
- 5.5 Other Material Types

6 GLOBAL DISSOLVABLE PACKAGING MARKET, BY PRODUCT TYPE

- 6.1 Films & Wraps
- 6.2 Bags
- 6.3 Pouches
- 6.4 Pods & Capsules
- 6.5 Sachets
- 6.6 Dissolvable Labels

7 GLOBAL DISSOLVABLE PACKAGING MARKET, BY SOLUBILITY TYPE

- 7.1 Cold Water Soluble
- 7.2 Warm Water Soluble
- 7.3 Hot Water Soluble

8 GLOBAL DISSOLVABLE PACKAGING MARKET, BY BARRIER PROPERTIES

- 8.1 High Barrier
- 8.2 Medium Barrier
- 8.3 Low Barrier
- 8.4 Moisture Barrier
- 8.5 Oxygen Barrier
- 8.6 Multi-Barrier

9 GLOBAL DISSOLVABLE PACKAGING MARKET, BY TECHNOLOGY TYPE

- 9.1 Extrusion Blow Molding

- 9.2 Cast Film Extrusion
- 9.3 Blown Film Extrusion
- 9.4 Injection Molding
- 9.5 Thermoforming
- 9.6 Solution Casting

10 GLOBAL DISSOLVABLE PACKAGING MARKET, BY END USER

- 10.1 Household & Consumer Care
- 10.2 Food & Beverage
- 10.3 Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals
- 10.4 Agriculture & Agrochemicals
- 10.5 Personal Care
- 10.6 Industrial Applications

11 GLOBAL DISSOLVABLE PACKAGING MARKET, BY GEOGRAPHY

- 11.1 North America
 - 11.1.1 United States
 - 11.1.2 Canada
 - 11.1.3 Mexico
- 11.2 Europe
 - 11.2.1 United Kingdom
 - 11.2.2 Germany
 - 11.2.3 France
 - 11.2.4 Italy
 - 11.2.5 Spain
 - 11.2.6 Netherlands
 - 11.2.7 Belgium
 - 11.2.8 Sweden
 - 11.2.9 Switzerland
 - 11.2.10 Poland
 - 11.2.11 Rest of Europe
- 11.3 Asia Pacific
 - 11.3.1 China
 - 11.3.2 Japan
 - 11.3.3 India
 - 11.3.4 South Korea
 - 11.3.5 Australia

- 11.3.6 Indonesia
- 11.3.7 Thailand
- 11.3.8 Malaysia
- 11.3.9 Singapore
- 11.3.10 Vietnam
- 11.3.11 Rest of Asia Pacific
- 11.4 South America
 - 11.4.1 Brazil
 - 11.4.2 Argentina
 - 11.4.3 Colombia
 - 11.4.4 Chile
 - 11.4.5 Peru
 - 11.4.6 Rest of South America
- 11.5 Rest of the World (RoW)
 - 11.5.1 Middle East
 - 11.5.1.1 Saudi Arabia
 - 11.5.1.2 United Arab Emirates
 - 11.5.1.3 Qatar
 - 11.5.1.4 Israel
 - 11.5.1.5 Rest of Middle East
 - 11.5.2 Africa
 - 11.5.2.1 South Africa
 - 11.5.2.2 Egypt
 - 11.5.2.3 Morocco
 - 11.5.2.4 Rest of Africa

12 STRATEGIC MARKET INTELLIGENCE

- 12.1 Industry Value Network and Supply Chain Assessment
- 12.2 White-Space and Opportunity Mapping
- 12.3 Product Evolution and Market Life Cycle Analysis
- 12.4 Channel, Distributor, and Go-to-Market Assessment

13 INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 13.1 Mergers and Acquisitions
- 13.2 Partnerships, Alliances, and Joint Ventures
- 13.3 New Product Launches and Certifications
- 13.4 Capacity Expansion and Investments

13.5 Other Strategic Initiatives

14 COMPANY PROFILES

- 14.1 Kuraray Co., Ltd.
- 14.2 MonoSol LLC
- 14.3 Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd.
- 14.4 Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation
- 14.5 Aicello Corporation
- 14.6 Mondi Group
- 14.7 Aquapak Polymers Ltd.
- 14.8 Solubag
- 14.9 Cortec Corporation
- 14.10 Arrow Greentech Limited
- 14.11 Soltec Development SAS
- 14.12 Soluble Technology Limited
- 14.13 Rovi Packaging S.A.
- 14.14 ECOPOL
- 14.15 Smart Solve Industries

List Of Tables

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Region (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 2 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Material Type (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 3 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Polyvinyl Alcohol (PVA) (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 4 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Starch-Based Materials (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 5 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Surfactants (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 6 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Fibers (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 7 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Other Material Types (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 8 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Product Type (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 9 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Films & Wraps (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 10 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Bags (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 11 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Pouches (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 12 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Pods & Capsules (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 13 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Sachets (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 14 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Dissolvable Labels (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 15 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Solubility Type (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 16 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Cold Water Soluble (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 17 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Warm Water Soluble (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 18 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Hot Water Soluble (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 19 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Barrier Properties (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 20 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By High Barrier (2023-2034)

(\$MN)

Table 21 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Medium Barrier
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 22 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Low Barrier (2023-2034)
(\$MN)

Table 23 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Moisture Barrier
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 24 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Oxygen Barrier (2023-2034)
(\$MN)

Table 25 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Multi-Barrier (2023-2034)
(\$MN)

Table 26 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Technology Type
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 27 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Extrusion Blow Molding
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 28 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Cast Film Extrusion
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 29 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Blown Film Extrusion
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 30 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Injection Molding
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 31 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Thermoforming (2023-2034)
(\$MN)

Table 32 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Solution Casting
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 33 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By End User (2023-2034)
(\$MN)

Table 34 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Household & Consumer
Care (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 35 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Food & Beverage
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 36 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Healthcare &
Pharmaceuticals (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 37 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Agriculture &
Agrochemicals (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 38 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Personal Care (2023-2034)
(\$MN)

Table 39 Global Dissolvable Packaging Market Outlook, By Industrial Applications
(2023-2034) (\$MN)

Note: Tables for North America, Europe, APAC, South America, and Rest of the World (RoW) are also represented in the same manner as above.

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