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Evaluation of the influence of additives in model mixtures on the quality of pyrolysis products

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With the growing world population and the increasing demands on living conditions, plastic production is also increasing, and plastic waste is becoming an increasingly pressing problem. Plastic waste contains various types of additives that can be released into the environment and negatively affect it. Additives are added to plastics to improve their properties; on the other hand, additives can affect chemical reactions and the quality of recycled products. In this study, the effect of naturally occurring additives on the chemical recycling of polyolefin model mixtures with additives was investigated. The additives facilitated the cracking of long polymer chains, which led to higher yields of light hydrocarbons during thermo-catalytic pyrolysis compared to fresh polymer. However, the additives generally reduced the formation of aromatic nuclei during thermo-catalytic pyrolysis, with carbon black being an exception, as they promoted the development of aromatics and increased the formation of xylene and toluene during thermo-catalytic pyrolysis. The type of additive in waste plastics significantly influenced both the yield and quality of the pyrolysis products. An appropriate combination of additives results in increased formation of aromatic hydrocarbons.

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