Uses of Materials

Materials

Materials are what things are made from. There are many everyday materials.

baked clay

fabric

glass

metal

paper

plastic

rock

wood

Properties

A property is a quality that a material has. Properties include:

- absorbent
- not absorbent
- opaque
- transparent
- bendy
- not bendy
- rough
- smooth
- hard
- soft
- stretchy
- not stretchy
- strong
- not strong
- waterproof
- not waterproof

Materials can have several properties. For example, wood is hard, strong, opaque and absorbent.

absorbent sponge

soft fabric

stretchy rubber band

transparent vase

Properties and their uses

Objects are made from materials with suitable properties.

Object: chair legs

Material: metal

Properties: Strong and not bendy so the legs won't bend or collapse when a person sits down.

Object: chair seat

Material: plastic

Properties: Strong and waterproof so the seat won't break when sat on, and any spills can be wiped off.

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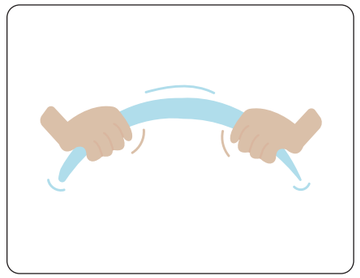
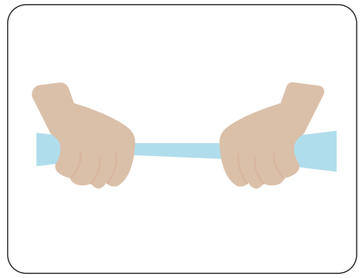
Shaping materials

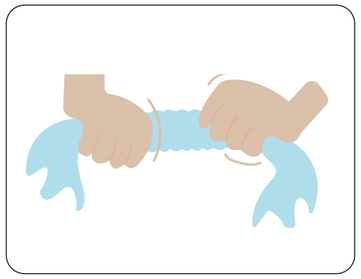
Materials can be shaped by bending, stretching, twisting and squashing.



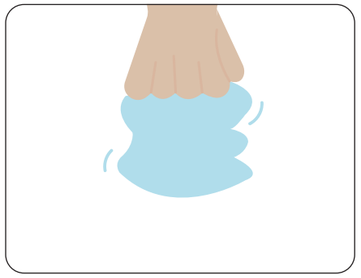
bending



stretching



twisting



squashing

Recycling

Recycling means turning old products into new ones. This makes less waste and uses fewer of the Earth's natural resources.

This is a table of materials that can be recycled.

Material	Products	Examples
cardboard	packaging	
glass	bottles and jars	
metal	tins, cans and foil trays	
paper	newspapers and magazines	
plastic	bottles, pots and trays	

Reduce, reuse and recycle

There are three ways we can save the Earth's natural resources.

Reduce the number of objects we buy and the amount of packaging we use.

Reuse items like carrier bags and envelopes.

Recycle as much waste as possible.

Glossary

absorbent	An absorbent material easily soaks up liquid.
opaque	An opaque material stops light from travelling through it, so you cannot see through it.
transparent	A transparent material allows you to see through it.
waterproof	A waterproof material does not let water pass through it.

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