

Building Materials

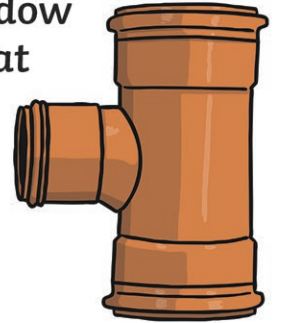
Fact Cards



Building Materials Fact Cards

Plastic

Plastic can be hard or soft and is used in many areas of building a house. It is usually used for all the pipes that carry water to and from the house. It is also often used for window and door frames. Plastic can melt at very high temperatures, so is not fire resistant.

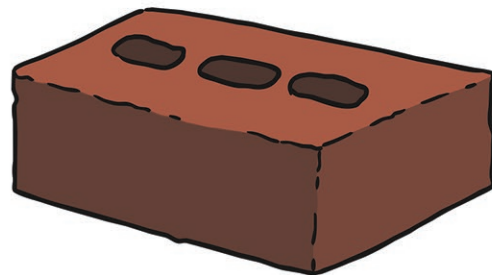


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Bricks

Bricks are used for building the walls. They are strong and heavy, and are able to bear a lot of weight. They are made from clay, sand, lime or concrete materials. They are laid in a pattern called bonds which makes the structure even stronger.



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Mortar

Mortar is a paste used to bind bricks, stone and concrete together so that there are no gaps between them. It is made from a mixture of sand, water and usually cement. It goes hard when it dries so keeps bricks in place.



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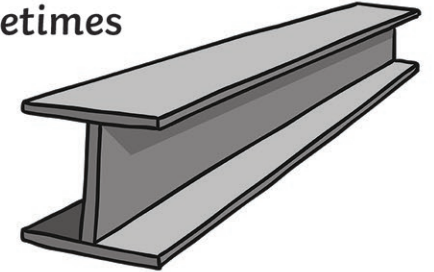
Glass

Glass is transparent, which means you can see through it. This is useful in building because it means it keeps the rain and the wind out of a house but lets the light in. It is made from silica, which is sand based.



Metal

Metal is sometimes used for the frame of a building; a bit like making the skeleton of a house with everything built around it. Usually steel is used, as it is so strong and lasts a long time. Copper is sometimes used for the pipework, gutters and roofing of houses.



Wood

Wood has been used in building for thousands of years because it comes from trees, so is easy to find. It is flexible, which means it bends, but can hold strong loads too without breaking. Its main problem is how easily it burns in a fire.



Foam

Foam is used for insulating buildings, which means keeping as much heat in as possible. Bricks, wood and metal which are all used in buildings, do not help with keeping a place warm. Large bundles of foam are sandwiched between the bricks and wood panels of a building to keep the heat in and the cold out.

Fabric

Fabrics have been used for tents and yurts for years. In the home, they are used for the soft furnishings. These are the carpets, curtains, cushions and coverings of chairs. Fabrics were originally used for keeping warm but these days are used more for changing the colour or style of a room.

