

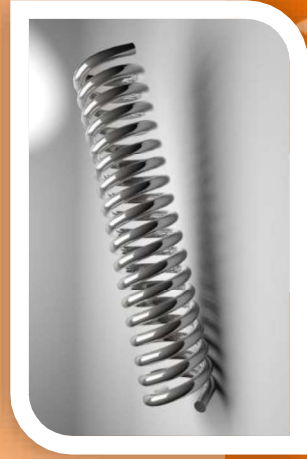
METAL

There are many different types of metals. Some metals are natural (like copper) and others are processed (like steel). Iron and steel are used for construction of houses, bridges, cars etc. as they are very strong and cheap to produce.

Aluminium and copper are light materials that are flexible, conductors of electricity and do not react with water. They are used in wires, pipes, aeroplane parts and to wrap food.

Zinc is used to galvanise iron to protect it from rusting. Silver and gold are used to make jewellery and ornaments.

Mercury turns to liquid at room temperature so it is used in thermometers.



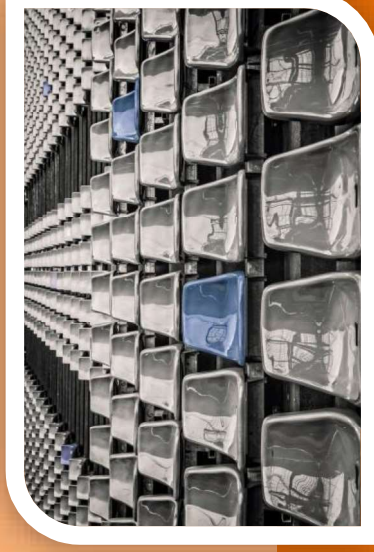
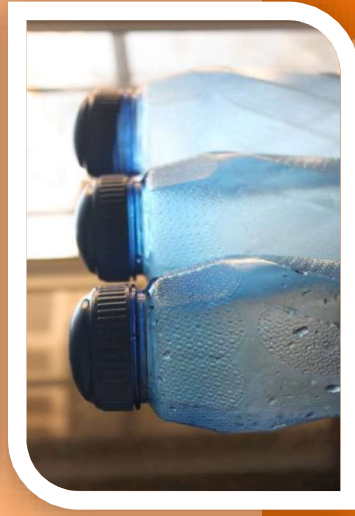
PLASTIC

Plastics are processed materials. They can be flexible or rigid, waterproof, coloured or transparent. They are also extremely long lasting and can be moulded to any shape.

Plastic is used to make helmets, airbags, toys, computers, phones.

They are also used in roofs, walls, insulation and flooring (vinyl, linoleum).

Plastics are used to package food as they can keep it fresh and safe from bacteria but do not add much weight or bulk to packaging.



GLASS

Glass is made from heating sand to 1700°C. The thinner glass is the more brittle it is.

Glass is used in glasses, cups and containers due to being a safe, waterproof material which is inert to most chemicals and doesn't leave crevices for bacteria to grow since it is smooth.

It is used in windows and screens because it is hard and transparent. Ground up glass is used in insulation and fibreglass which makes parts for cars and boats.

It is used for many medical and laboratory tools as it can be easily sterilised and doesn't contaminate samples.



WOOD

Wood is a natural material that can be used with very little effort or cost.

It is used for fuelling fires as it is quite flammable. It is very strong but it can also be light and last a long time so it is used for building houses. It is also good for houses because it absorbs noise and insulates against heat.

It is only slightly absorbent, is flexible and it floats so it is used for boats.

Wood can also be turned into paper.



COTTON

Cotton is a natural material as it comes from a plant. It can be woven or knitted into fabrics (flannel, denim, velvet etc) which are then used to make clothes and sheets because it is flexible.

It is used to make towels and cloths because it is very absorbent. Cotton as a seed is a food that be fed to cattle or crushed to make an oil for cooking, soaps and makeup.

The short fibres that are still on the cotton seed after being ground are used for bandages, bank notes, cotton tips and xrays.

