

Fortnightly Challenge to make as many Eco Bricks as possible and when we return to school we'll use them for building projects in our Forest Farm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaJrkzQ43m4>

<https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/news/news-archive/2019/what-is-an-ecobrick>

## What plastics can you put in your ecobrick?

You can put any type of plastic in your brick, but before chucking it in willy-nilly, it's important to see if that type of plastic can be recycled in your area. The plastic that can be recycled can vary depending on where you live, so it's worth [checking with your local council](#) exactly what they will and won't accept. Any plastic that they don't accept can go in your ecobrick.

Here are some of the items you can put in your brick:

- Plastic bags
- Photo paper
- Crisp packets
- Food containers
- Straws
- Plastic cutlery
- Cling film
- Plastic fruit and vegetable packaging
- Polystyrene (or Styrofoam) – this is a petroleum-based product that can't be recycled. Lots of products are made out of this including food containers and packaging.

Don't forget that you can always cut up plastic to go in your ecobrick, even if it seems too big.

## Can black plastic be recycled?

You might be asking yourself, what is black plastic? And the answer is, exactly that. Most commonly used as part microwave ready meals, it's a single use plastic designed to be only used once and thrown away or recycled.

So in short, yes, black plastic can be recycled. However, most local councils don't actually offer black plastic recycling. This is because it's quite tricky to sort black plastics from other materials.

The equipment that is used to sort plastic in recycling centres is called **near-infrared**, so it uses light to sort out the plastics. The near-infrared can't detect the pigment used to colour the plastic black, so it gets missed and more often than not ends up in landfill.

So should you include black plastic in your ecobrick? Yes – because unless you are 100% sure that your local council can and are recycling black plastic, the chances are that it will end up in the ocean.