

Ecobricking

Why make Ecobricks?

The Global Ecobrick Alliance suggest that there are twelve good reasons. A few of them being:

- Ecobricks secure plastics from contaminating the Biosphere
- Ecobricking inspires ecological consciousness
- Ecobricks empower households, communities & companies

see <https://www.ecobricks.org/why/> for more details

What are Ecobricks?

Ecobricks are made from non-recyclable plastics stuffed into plastic bottles. They are used to build all sorts of furniture and structures both here in the UK and abroad.

How to Ecobrick

You will need:

A clean, dry plastic bottle with lid, wide necks are easiest

A wooden spoon or sturdy stick

Non- recyclable plastics, eg, clean and dry plastic packaging, food containers, polystyrene, cling film etc

The aim is to cram as much plastic as you can into the bottle so that it is solid and sturdy (not squishy).

Once stuffed tightly it should be the recommended weight for ecobricks, ie, 0.33g per ml or more. For example, a 500ml bottle with lid on should weigh a minimum of 165g.

Write its weight on the side of the bottle along with the bottle's capacity, eg 500ml.

Ensure you push the plastic into the curved base and top as these are the main areas where gaps can get left unfilled. There should be no air gaps if at all possible.

To help with cramming the plastic down as hard as possible, a glove or oven glove may protect your hand from the pressure applied to the spoon/stick.

Make sure the bottle lid can be screwed on comfortably by leaving just a tiny gap at the top so that there is no risk of the bottle rupturing under pressure.

An important thing to remember when ecobricking is that the longer it takes to fill up a bottle the better it is, as the aim should be to have as little waste plastic in your home as possible over time.

Storage and Delivery

Ideas are welcome as to ideas for putting these bricks to use locally, but in the meantime Cutteslowe Horticulture and Therapy Community Garden Centre (part of People in Action charity), based in Cutteslowe Park, is collecting ecobricks. Initially this will be to create an ecobrick structure within the centre to help raise awareness and start discussions about plastics. They then have plans to build other brick structures in many different ways.

When you have completed your ecobricks, if you are unable to store or deliver them yourselves, Sarah Folley has offered to help (01993 898016). She will store them and when there are a decent amount she will drop them off at the Centre.

Happy stuffing!