

Uses of Everyday Materials – Year 2 Chemistry

Materials and their uses

Material	Properties	Uses
wood	opaque hard strong	table
metal	shiny smooth reflective	fork
plastic	waterproof bendy translucent	water bottle
glass	transparent waterpoof hard	window
brick	hard rough dull	wall
rock	strong hard rigid	fireplace
paper	tears easily translucent flexible	book
cardboard	dull non-reflective opaque	boxes



Key vocabulary		
property	A quality belonging to a material	
transparent	Completely see-through	
translucent	Let some light through but not completely see-through.	
opaque	Not able to be seen through.	
flexible	Bends easily without breaking.	
rigid	Unable to bend or be forced out of shape.	
reflective	Reflects light easily.	
non- reflective	Does not reflect light.	
absorbent	Able to soak up liquid easily.	

Significant scientists		
John Loudon McAdam	John Loudon McAdam was a Scottish engineer who modernised the way	
(1756-1836)	we build roads. He was the inventor of tarmacadam road surfacing – commonly called tarmac.	

Changing materials



