

Natural vs. Synthetic Materials

Single-use Plastics

Many plastics that are meant to only be used once, like plastic water bottles or take-out containers, are synthetic materials. Natural materials like oil are used in a lab to create synthetic materials like plastic. These materials do not break down in landfills.



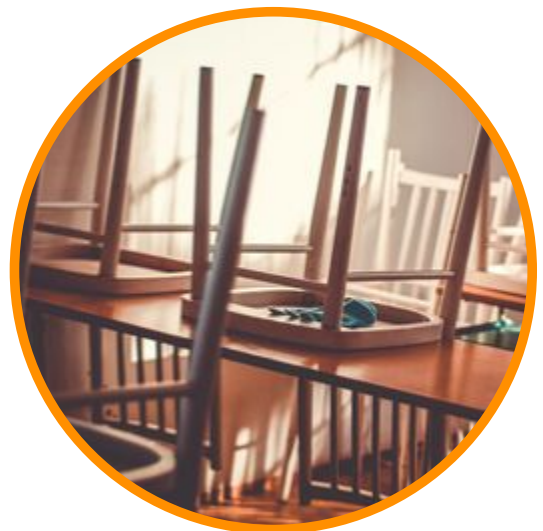
Balloons

Balloons can be made from natural or synthetic latex. Some balloons are made from natural latex, which comes from plants. Other balloons are made from latex that has gone through a chemical reaction that helps make it stronger and easier to stretch. These balloons are made from a synthetic material.



Home Items

Many items in your home are made from natural materials. Things like wooden tables, chairs, and doors are made from the naturally occurring material wood.



Steps to Make Plastic

1. Measure 1 cup of milk. Microwave the milk on 50% power for 2 minutes. After 2 minutes, microwave in 30 second increments until the milk is hot.
2. While the milk is still hot, add 4 tablespoons of vinegar. Stir the mixture. While you are stirring, clumps of milk will form. If clumps do not form, your milk was not hot enough. You will need to start the experiment over.
3. Hold a strainer over a new bowl. Pour milk and vinegar mixture over the strainer. The clumps will stay in the strainer and the liquid will fall through.
4. Scoop out the clumps and place them on a paper towel. Squeeze clumps with a paper towel to get out extra moisture.
5. Your plastic is almost ready! Mold your clumps into a shape. Wait 2 days for your plastic to fully dry.

