



Metals

Metals come from ores in the ground. **Stock forms** are sheets, bars and rods

Ferrous Metals contain iron and are magnetic and rust		
Material	Key info	Examples
Low Carbon Steel	Tough and ductile and easily machined and welded	Construction, screws, cars
High Carbon Steel	Hard and wears well	Tools, blades and knives
Cast Iron	Hard but brittle. Easily cast but hard to machine	Pots, pans, vices

Non-Ferrous Metals do not contain iron, aren't magnetic and don't rust		
Material	Key info	Examples
Aluminium	Light, high strength to weight ratio and ductile	Pots, pans, cars, cans
Copper	Ductile, malleable and good conductor	Plumbing supplies and cables
Tin	Soft, malleable and good conductor	Used as a protective coating

Alloys

Alloys are mixtures of 2 or more metals to get the best of their properties

Material	Key info	Examples
Brass	Malleable and easy to cast	Musical instruments, plumbing
Stainless Steel	Doesn't rust, hard and smooth	Cutlery, medical tools, etc

Plastics

Plastics come from crude oil. **Stock forms** are sheets, powders, granules and rods

Thermoplastics can be reheated and reshaped and infinite amount of times		
Material	Key info	Examples
PET	Easily blow moulded , food safe and easily recycled	Bottles, packaging, etc
PVC	Flexible, tough, easily extruded	Pipes, tape, hard hats
HIPS	Flexible, lightweight, food safe and easily vacuum formed	Containers and yoghurt pots
Acrylic	Tough, brittle, easily scratched	Car lights, baths, displays/ signs

Thermosets once heated and set cannot be reshaped		
Material	Key info	Examples
Melamine Formaldehyde	Food safe, hygienic, hard and brittle	Kitchenware and work surfaces
Urea Formaldehyde	Good insulator, hard and brittle	Electrical casings, buttons and handles
Polyester Resin	Strong, heat resistant, can be transparent	Coatings, casings

Primary Processing of Metals and Alloys

Metals are mined from the earth and then go through an extraction process. Extraction happens by putting the ore in a blast furnace. The metal is then separated from the waste material.

Primary Processing of Plastics

Crude oil is extracted from the earth and then processes into different types of fuels, etc. This is called **Fractional Distillation**. A process called **Cracking** then converts the large hydrocarbon molecules into plastics.