

Activity Descriptor

- Participants are encouraged to consider a range of materials used in the construction industry and to perform simple comparative tests; recording and discussing their results
- The activity may also give opportunity to explore a range of construction careers.

Industry Ambassador Support

Materials and Properties will be greatly enhanced by the support of a Construction Industry Ambassador who can arrange a site visit. To request Industry Ambassador support please e-mail experience@goconstruct.org

Introducing the Activity

- Encourage the participants to identify each of the construction materials
- Discuss what each material might be used for within the construction industry
- Discuss the job roles associated with each material
- Explain that participants will undertake some simple comparative tests on each of the materials

Comparative Tests

- A series of simple comparative tests can include such comparisons as hardest/softest; opaque/transparent; shiny/dull; waterproof/not waterproof; lightest/heaviest; roughest/smoothest
- Further tests could immerse the materials in water and monitor and note any change and the implication

Continuing the Activity

- Participants should be encouraged to share and discuss their findings
- Implications of the results on the construction process could be discussed for example; why do windows need to be transparent; how a damp proof course works; why do we need to mix sand with cement
- Participants could be asked to list construction related job roles which could be associated with each material

Concluding the Activity

- Activity Lead may like to suggest that participants identify objects in their home which are made of the material used
- Activity Lead may wish to involve participants in clearing away
- Activity Lead may like to recap some of the careers mentioned at the outset of the activity.