## How to Make an Eco Brick...

Start with a clean and dry bottle 1) it has to have a screw cap NOT a sports cap, and NO milk bottles b/c you can't fill the handles. And please use CLEAR bottles so that its easy to see the plastic inside.

2) start with a smaller bottle like 500ml, when you get better at the stuffing technique, you can build up to bigger bottles. The bigger the bottle the harder to stuff. Some people start off with a 2ltr and get discouraged when they fail to fill, but they've just tried to run before they could walk

With the plastic, anything that's touched food has to be cleaned so there's no mould in the bottle that will weaken it. Plastic from parcel packaging is already clean and dry and good to go, but anything foodie related needs to be washed.

It helps to get the bottle to the right weight (on the poster) if you cut your plastic into small pieces, and have a mix of soft plastic (crisp packets/bread bags) and hard plastic (salad containers). You should start with the softer plastic at the base and be sure to stuff (find a good pokey implement) from the very beginning. Squashing from the start prevents any air gaps and keeps the bottle dense from top to bottom.

I like to have a bag of plastic ready for the end of the week. I spend random days during the week collecting, cleaning and cutting it, then I can hopefully get a whole bottle stuffed watching TV on Sunday. You will be shocked how the plastic disappears into the bottle. Do not make the mistake of overestimating how much cut up bits of rubbish you have, those plastic bottles will gobble it all up like it's nothing

It's sometimes a good idea to weigh the bottle as you go along to be sure you're making good progress with the weight.

If it's stuffed and still not quite heavy enough, roll it underfoot with some weight on it. This will loosen some of the plastic and create some gaps, giving you room to squash some more and add more in. (Some people keep their bottle beside a radiator b/c the heat can also make the plastic more squashable).

Finally, once your brick is done and to the right weight, its time to authenticate it Set up an account on GoBrik and log your brick. You will be asked the brand of bottle (e.g. cocacola), where the plastic is from (home) and how much does the brick weigh? the bottle volume (500ml) what type of brick (regular ecobrick) the base colour (this is not too important, some people think it is and panic, but it isnt)

You'll then be given a serial number unique to this bottle. Get a permanent marker and write the serial number and weight of your brick clearly on the bottle. Then take a photo of it, upload the photo and log. It's then a waiting game for 3 fellow brickers to take a look at your photo and ok the brick. If it's ok'd by all three, its authenticated and good to go  $\bigcirc$  that was looning



Useful 'How to' video can be found

https://www.ecobricks.org/how/

I've also put a few more guides together on our website here: