

Choosing a building material involves a number of sustainability issues. Will it be energy-efficient in use? Is it a good insulator? How much energy went into its production and transport? Does its production cause pollution or degradation of the environment? What are its maintenance requirements and how long will it last? At the end of its life can it be reused, recycled or disposed of safely? Is it a health risk in your home? Does it outgas volatile solvents? Will it contribute to a healthy allergen-free indoor environment?

These are all issues worth considering. However some of the answers will depend on personal sensitivities and preferences.

## MATERIALS

Building Materials

Timber

Plastics

Paint

Earth Building