

Product Design: Are Mushrooms the New Styrofoam?

After watching the videos about Ecovative, imagine what a difference it would make if we could design more products using these closed-loop materials instead of polystyrene (the name of the plastic used to make Styrofoam).

Your task is to design, mold, and test an application for Ecovative material.

First, work in your group to brainstorm everything you can think of that incorporated polystyrene. Then, search online to see if you can identify even more uses.

Use the table below to record your findings.

Use	How does it work?	How do you know if it is effective?

Now that you have an extensive list of uses, decide as a group which one you would like to test.

You will need to figure how:

- **What property you will test**
- **How you will make your mold for your Ecovative product**
- **How you will obtain a similar product made of polystyrene for comparison**

You will use the Experimental Design worksheet to create a test to use once your mushroom materials have been molded, grown, and dried.