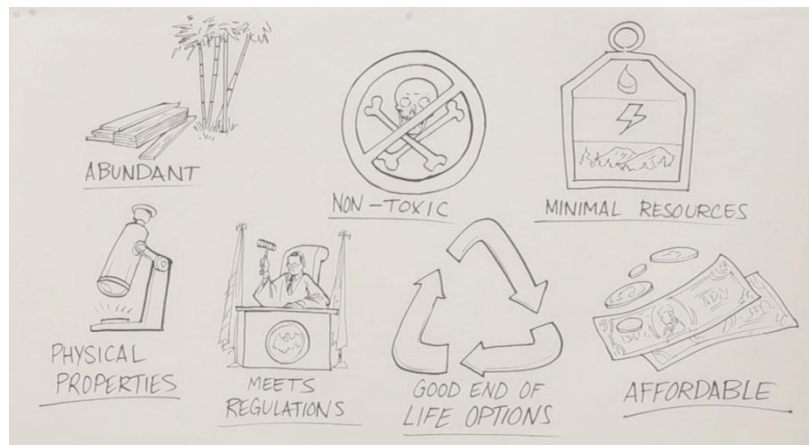


Introduction to Green Material Selection

Companion to the video: Script and Illustrations

Today's engineers and designers have more options than ever when choosing more sustainable materials.

But what makes something green? Well, a good material is abundant and non-toxic. It doesn't require a lot of energy and other resources to make and use. It has the right physical properties for its function. It also meets or exceeds regulations, has good end-of-life options, and doesn't drive up costs.



That's a lot to consider – and it can get even more complicated than that. You also have to look at the life-cycle impacts of the whole system.

A compostable cup may be made of biodegradable materials, but if it's only used once it's much less green than a plain old mug that's been used thousands of times.

But don't worry. You can learn to manage these considerations and make smart trade-offs when choosing materials.

That's what the next few lessons are all about.