

Making Plastic from Trees: Transcript



Can you make sweet wrappers from trees?



You would not think that you could make sweet wrappers from trees, but you can! These plastic wrappers are made using materials from trees. That is why they are called bioplastics.



Trees are grown in plantations all over the world. The wood that they make is mashed up and water is added to make wood pulp. This is like a thick porridge and contains all the fibres from the wood.



Before it is sent to the plastic factory, it is dried and made into square sheets like blotting paper. This makes it a lot easier to transport to the plastics factory.



This is the factory where the plastic is made from the wood pulp. Other ingredients are added to the wood pulp, and it goes through many different changes to make the new material which is a sheet of bioplastic.



Here are some of the machines that make the bioplastic. Ingredients found in the wood pulp are processed to make a very thin layer of plastic. This is called a film.

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The thin film is stretched out using machines that contain large rollers. These help make the plastic thin and suitable for sweet wrappers.



All the machines in the factory are monitored and controlled by computers. The machines can be operated from control rooms like this one.



The plastic film is wound onto large drums which can be taken to the customer who may use it for wrapping food or other things.



Sometimes the plastic film is coloured and cut into smaller strips on machines like this one. The plastic is crinkly, to wrap around the sweets, and brightly coloured to look attractive.



One of the best things about these wrappers is that they were made using materials from trees. That means that they can break down again once they have been thrown away.



They do not just build up in rubbish dumps. These wrappers can be put into compost and will eventually make new soil.



The soil can be used to grow more plants. Maybe this soil will be used to grow new trees to make even more sweet wrappers.

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