

Stop the ice melting!

Brief summary:

In this experiment you will make an esky by experimenting with different household materials to see which ones are the best at keeping ice from melting.

You will need:

- Waxed paper
- Small cardboard box
- Household items you can use to line the box, such as aluminium foil, newspaper, styrofoam, fabric or any other items you can find.
- Ice cubes
- Stopwatch/clock

What to do:

Step 1. Take one cardboard box and line it with one of the household items. Repeat with the remaining cardboard boxes.

Step 2. Place an equal number of ice cubes in each box.

Step 3. Close the lids of the boxes, place them on a table or bench and set the stopwatch for half an hour.

Step 4. Check the ice cubes every half hour and record which boxes make the best eskies!

Take it further:

Do the same materials keep things warm and cool? Or do different materials work better for keeping things cool or warm? Conduct an experiment to find out!

Big questions:

- How can insulation in our houses help our environment?
- What things can we do to our houses to reduce our household energy consumption?

