

Around the World with Non-Itch

In 2009 I set off to try to drive around the world in an old school bus made from reclaimed materials, that I'd fished out of a scrap yard, and converted to run on waste cooking oil. Building the truck took about 3 months, and the hardest part was sourcing materials and products that fitted this "rubbish" theme. Lots of parts were salvaged from scrap yards, pulled out of skips, or found on freecycle. I looked at different insulation options, knowing that the truck would have to contend with searing heat of the Rajasthani desert, and the icy cold of the Himalaya mountains. When I stumbled across Non-Itch, made from recycled plastic bottles and non-toxic to handle, knew it was perfect for the truck build.

It cut to size easily and I taped it into the cavity of the body shell, before pinning salvaged plywood panels over it. It was very easy to fit even on vertical surfaces, and sat quietly doing it's job while I drove through Turkey Iran Pakistan, India, Malaysia, Thailand, the US and is now back to the UK.

Sometimes its nice to take shelter in the truck from the wide and varied world, and the cosy acoustics created by the insulated walls made it a perfect hideaway from the baying horns of Indian traffic or Turkish truck exhausts.

Two years on, I made it back to the UK, having fuelled the truck without once putting fossil fuel in the tank. I was surprised as anyone else that this old wreck made it.

I'm now starting to build a new truck, again using reclaimed materials, and building on the lessons I've learned from this two year global test drive. One lesson is to use Non-Itch insulation again, and I'm really grateful the guys at YBS Insulation have offered to help me with product that can insulate the walls, and the roof, but also the vegetable oil tanks and filtering system, which needs to stay warm to work. We'll be headed to Turkmenistan which gets very cold in the winter so the insulation is now not just important for comfort but for the engine to work. I've got no worries that Non-Itch will do the job.

