

STEM

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How to make mystery goop

Make this fun goop at home. Watch as it goes from soft to hard and soft again.

The goop is a combination of cornflour and water. It is often referred to as Oobleck, in the Dr Seuss book *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*.

This mixture is a 'non-Newtonian' fluid, which has unique properties different from other fluids. While it will pour and take the shape of its container like other liquids, if pressure is applied to it, by squeezing or striking, its viscosity changes and it 'hardens' under the pressure. It returns to its fluid state when the pressure is removed.

You will need

1. A 300g box of cornflour
2. Two cups of water

Method

1. Add about half of the box of cornflour to 2/3 cup of water.
2. Mix smoothly and slowly. Do not mix quickly as vigorous mixing will cause the mixture to thicken with the pressure making the mixing difficult.
3. The mixture may need more cornflour or more water to obtain the consistency of honey. Slowly add more cornflour and more water until you have the amount and the consistency desired.
4. Squeeze the mixture and it will become hard.

Safety

Dry cornflour may present an inhalation hazard, so be careful. You will also need to wear safety goggles. Clean up cornflower by wiping with a wet cloth if the cornflour is wet or vacuum if it is dry.

Clean-up

This is messy. Use it in an area that can be easily wiped.

Throw the goop into the bin when you have finished, not the drain.

