

Slow Motion Color Mixing Oobleck

Colors swirl in slow motion in this fun experiment!

Materials Needed

- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup water
- Bowl
- Spoon
- Tray
- Food coloring (at least 2 colors)

The Steps

1. Mix the cornstarch and water in a bowl and stir slowly until evenly mixed.
2. Pour the mixture into a shallow tray.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to the mixture. Use at least 2 different colors.
4. Tilt the tray back and forth and watch the colors slowly move through the oobleck and mix.
5. Try mixing the primary colors (red, yellow and blue).
What colors do they make?
6. Try picking up a ball of oobleck and roll it in your hands.
What happens to the ball of oobleck once you open your hands?

The Hows and Whys

Oobleck is a non-Newtonian fluid and one of the coolest substances around. Non-Newtonian fluids behave very differently than normal fluids in that they harden when pressure is applied to them and liquify when pressure is released. For example, when you roll the oobleck into a ball you apply pressure to it and it holds its shape of a ball. Then, when you set the ball in the palm of your hand, the oobleck turns back into a liquid and becomes a puddle of oobleck again.

