

Static Slime

Adapted from “Jumping Goop” from Frugal Fun for Boys and Girls

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

SUMMARY: Who doesn't like a good slime to play with? This activity can help you charge up your slime play by using the power of static electricity to make your slime jump and dance. Just be careful to not slime your hair!

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- An object with a static charge is polar. It is negatively or positively charged. In this experiment the balloon will have a positive charge from your hair and the cornstarch gives the slime a negative charge.
- Swapping out ingredients like water for oil will affect the attraction between the balloon and the slime.

Materials Used		Resources Used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corn starch • Water • Balloons (at least two) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowl • Spoon • Vegetable or canola oil • Measuring cup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://frugalfun4boys.com/jumping-goop-static-electricity-demonstration/

WHAT TO DO

1. Blow up the balloon most of the way.
2. Fill your bowl with a 1:1 ratio of oil and cornstarch (this means if you use $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of oil you should use $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of cornstarch). Stir well to incorporate.
3. Examine the texture of the slime. It should be smooth, but not completely liquid. This batch will have a different feel than the normal cornstarch and water “Oobleck” recipe you might have tried.
4. With clean hands, take the balloon and rub it against your hair or a sweater to build up a charge.
5. Bring the balloon close to the surface of the slime. Alternatively, you can put some slime in a spoon and bring it close to the balloon.
6. What are you observing? Does the slime move toward or away from the balloon?
7. Try the balloon and just powdered corn starch – do they attract?
8. Try this same experiment but with the traditional Oobleck ingredients – cornstarch and water in the same ratio.
9. Do you observe the same effect?

TIPS

- This is not the best activity for summer when the weather is humid and carries charge away from the balloon. Try and find a day when the air is dry so that you have the best static results.

- Other slime recipes may or may not work the same – can you hypothesize as why this recipe works better (or if it does not, what is the best recipe to demonstrate static electricity?)