

Oobleck

Step 1:

Add several scoops (about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup) of corn starch to your bowl. You can add more or less depending on the size of your bowl. *Make sure you don't use all of your corn starch in this step! Save some for later!*

You will need:

- Corn Starch
- Water
- Bowl for mixing
- Food coloring (optional)

Step 2 (optional):

Add food coloring to your water (if you want). Remember that you'll be adding this color to the white corn starch. What color do you think it will turn into after you mix it?

Step 3:

Add a small amount of water at a time to the corn starch and mix it with your hands. Keep doing this until all of the corn starch is just barely wet. If you add a little too much water, you can add another scoop of corn starch. You'll know that you have your mixture just right when you can tap the surface quickly and it turns hard but if you rest your finger on it you will slowly sink in.

Step 4:

Play! See what your new creation feels like. How does it act when you try to mix it? What happens when you scoop up a bunch with your hand?

What's Happening?

Oobleck is something called a "non-Newtonian" fluid, which means that acts differently depending on how hard you push on it. When oobleck is moved quickly, it acts more like a solid. When it is moved slowly, it acts like a liquid.

Clean-up Tips:

Large amounts of oobleck are best thrown away in the trash as too much can clog sink drains. Once you are done playing, you can easily rinse hands and dishes at the sink and all the remaining oobleck will wash off easily with water. Make sure to rinse the sink and pipes with a little extra water once you're done to make sure all the leftover corn starch has been flushed out and won't settle to clog your drain. The small amount from your hands shouldn't be a problem but it's always best to do an extra rinse.