

Science Slime

The Experiment

We will mix glue and Tide to create slime and learn about solids, liquids, and colloids. This is fun (and messy!) if you mix with your hands.

We also

Materials

½ cup Original Tide—we tried other detergents and it did not work, so we do suggest Tide!

Up to ½ cup Elmer's glue

A bowl for mixing

A spoon for mixing

Newspapers or a drop cloth to catch spills

Optional Materials

A bit of shaving cream or gel

A bit of cornstarch

Food coloring

Glitter, beads, or small Styrofoam balls

Steps

1. Pour your glue into your mixing bowl. If you want to add food coloring, stir it in.
2. Begin to add the Tide into the glue. Add a little bit at a time and mix completely. You may want to start mixing with a spoon and then mix with your hands later on.
 - Observe the changes. What do you see happening?
 - Make a prediction. What do you think will happen when you add more Tide?
3. Stir and mix the Tide little by little into the glue with your hands. Mix as much as possible. This may take a LOT of mixing! It should end up being about a 1:1 ratio of Tide and glue.

- Does your slime seem more like a solid or a liquid? Why?
4. At this step, you may choose to add shaving gel or cream.
 - Before you do, make a prediction. What do you think the shaving cream will do to your slime? Observe what happens.
 5. You may also choose to add cornstarch.
 - Make a prediction and see what happens.
 6. When your slime is mixed enough that it is soft like a liquid but holds shape like a solid, you can choose to add glitter or beads.
 7. Store your science slime in a Ziplock bag or a plastic container with a tight seal for safe keeping.

The Science

When you mix together Tide and glue, you are creating a substance called a colloid. A colloid is a mixture where one substance is spread through another substance. Because slime is a colloid, it acts like both a solid and a liquid!

References

Miller, R., Homer, H. & Harrington, J. (2016). *The 101 coolest simple science experiments*. Page Street.

The science behind slime. (n.d.). Little Bins for Little Hands.
<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/basic-slime-science-homemade-slime-for-kids/>