

Making Borax Crystals

Materials

String

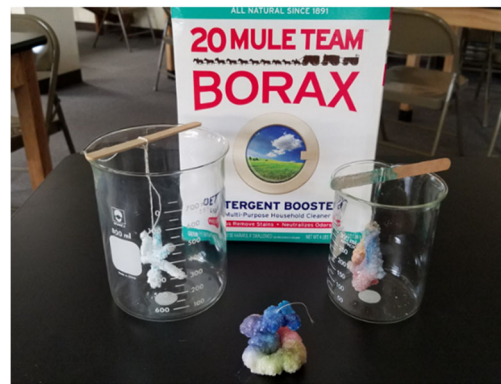
Popsicle stick, pencil, or stick

Heat safe jar or cup

Borax (often sold as a laundry detergent booster)

Water, Food coloring (optional)

Tip: To remove borax crystals that may have formed along the inside of your container, dissolve them with hot water and rinse.



Instructions

1. Tie a piece of string around a pencil or popsicle stick. Trim one end short and leave the other end of the string long enough to dangle into your jar or cup, but not long enough to touch the bottom.
2. Boil enough water to fill your cup up to 1 inch from the brim. Carefully pour the hot water into your cup.
3. Add a spoonful of Borax to the cup and stir the mixture until it dissolves completely. Add a second spoonful and repeat the process. Keep adding Borax until you see a small pile of powder at the bottom of the jar that won't dissolve. Mix the food coloring in if you have it.
4. Lay your stick over the top of the cup so the string is dangling in the water. Make sure the string is not touching the bottom or sides of the cup.
5. Leave the jar alone to form crystals for at least 8 hours. Place the jar somewhere it won't be disturbed. Shaking the jar could affect the formation of crystals. If you used a glass jar, you can check every couple of hours and watch the crystals grow!
6. When your string is covered in crystals and you are happy with the size of your crystals, remove them from the solution and let them air dry.