

Science- performing simple tests.

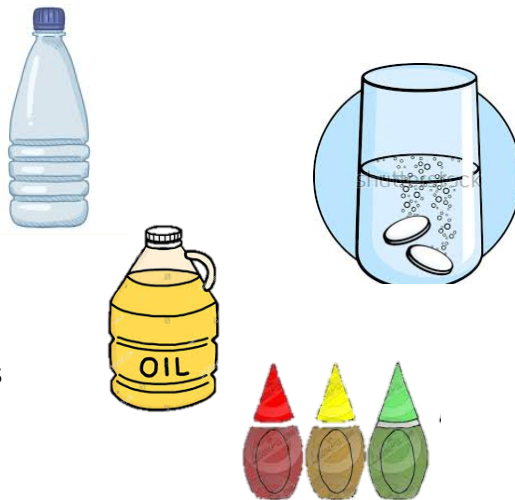


Make your own lava lamp

Become a scientist and brighten up your bedroom with a science decoration!

What you need:

- Plastic or glass bottle
- Water
- Vegetable oil
- Food colouring
- Alka-Seltzer or other antacid tablets
- Glitter (optional)
- Torch (optional)



How to:

1. Fill the bottle a quarter full with water.
2. Add a few drops of food colouring until you like the colour you see. You can add glitter too.
3. Fill the bottle almost to the top with vegetable oil. Let the mixture separate.
4. Break up two Alka-Seltzer tablets and drop them in the mixture. Watch your lava lamp bubble!

Top tip. You can shine a torch behind or underneath your lava lamp to see it glow. If you want to keep your lava lamp, use a bottle with a lid.

What's happening?

1. Oil is less dense than water, so it sits on top of the water and food colouring mix.
2. The water and oil separate into two layers.
3. Alka-Seltzer tablets dissolve in the water and react to make bubbles of carbon dioxide gas.
4. The gas bubbles rise up and take some of the coloured water with them to the surface of the oil.
5. When the gas in the bubbles escape through the top of the bottle, the water droplets fall back to the bottom.
6. When all the gas has escaped, the water and oil separate into two layers again. Add more Alka-Seltzer to restart your lava lamp!