

### TOP TIP!

If the mixture sticks to your fingers just add more liquid starch; if it is too firm, add more glue to make it slimmer.

# THE LAB

Things to make and do

### WARNING!

Food colouring can stain carpets, clothes and furniture. Keep surfaces covered with newspaper and protect your clothes.

# Gloopy gooey slime

**BORAX-FREE RECIPE!**

Making squishy stretchy slime is a science craze that has swept the globe. The gloopy stuff was first seen in toyshops in 1976 and is still a (not-very-firm) favourite. Here's how to make it.

### What you need

- PVA glue
- Food colouring
- Laundry starch (can be found at online retailers)
- Cold water
- Warm water
- 2 spoons
- 2 mixing bowls

### Instructions

Pour half a cup of glue into a mixing bowl and add a few drops of food colouring. Mix together and add more drops of colouring if you want a stronger shade. In a separate mixing bowl, dissolve four tablespoons of laundry starch into cold water and mix until all the lumps have disappeared. Now, add the warm water. Next, put six tablespoons of the starchy liquid into the bowl with the coloured glue. Mix around until it starts to get slimy. Now for the messy part: knead the mixture with your fingers until it turns to slime.



Mix the glue and starch.

### How does it work?

Atoms in the glue are joined in long strands with repeating units, like a chain. These molecules (two or more atoms joined together) are called polymers. PVA glue mixed with water is liquid, but when starch is added, the polymer chains begin to form links between themselves, making the mixture flow less easily. It gets rubbery and can be stretched and pulled about.