

MAKE YOUR OWN LAVA LAMP



What Will I Need?

- 1 Litre fizzy drink bottle.
- Cooking oil.
- Water.
- Food colouring.
- Fizzing tablets (such as Alka Seltzer or effervescent vitamin tablets).



How To Do It

1. Pour the water into the bottle so it fills about a fifth of the way up.
2. Now pour the oil into the bottle so it is almost full.
3. Wait a few minutes for the oil and water to separate.
4. Add the chosen food colouring to the bottle and wait for it to reach the water and mix with it.
5. Break one of the fizzing tablets in half and drop one half into the bottle.
6. Now watch the blobs form and move around the bottle.
7. Ta-da! You now have your own Lava Lamp!
8. You may want to think about shining a torch underneath to improve the effect.
9. Your bottle can be stored with a lid on and the effect can be recreated by adding more fizzing tablets whenever you want.

Science behind Lava Lamp making

- Oil is lighter than water which is why it sits above it.
- Water molecules and oil molecules cannot bind together because of “polarity”. You can find out more about it by clicking on the link: <https://mocomi.com/why-oil-and-water-dont-mix/>
- The fizzing tablets creates a gas as it dissolves.
- As the gas bubbles rise, they take some of the coloured water with them.
- The gas escapes when the bubble reaches the top and the water goes back down.
- This activity can be done over and over again by adding more fizzing tablets.
- Chemistry and Physics help explain the science of lava lamps. Did you know that you can study these as subjects at university?