

A fountain of cola

Brief summary:

In this explosive experiment you will make a fountain from a bottle of diet cola and a pack of Mentos.

You will need:

- Help from an adult
- Roll of Mentos
- 1 2-litre bottle of diet cola
- 13cm x 13cm piece of paper
- Sticky tape
- Small piece of card (such as an index card)

What to do:

Step 1. Before beginning this experiment you will need to find a place outside to conduct the experiment. This experiment will make a lot of sticky mess: the place you choose to do this experiment needs to be away from things that will get damaged from being sticky or from being hosed down. Check with an adult that you have picked a good spot.

Step 2. To get the best results you need to add several Mentos to the bottle of cola at once. The best way to do this is to create a tube out of your piece of paper that will sit on the top of the bottle. Make sure the opening of the tube is just small enough to fit inside the top of the bottle but tall enough to stack the Mentos inside. Use the tape to create the tube but don't attach the tube to the bottle.

Step 3. Carefully open the bottle of diet cola. Place the piece of card over the opening of the bottle. Put one end of the paper cylinder on top of the piece of card, making sure that the opening of the tube lines up with the opening of the bottle. You want the Mentos to fall into the bottle when you remove the card.

Step 4. Stack 5 or 6 Mentos inside the paper cylinder and use just enough pressure to hold the cylinder in place.

Step 5. Carefully slide the card out from under the cylinder and let the Mentos fall into the bottle.

Step 6. RUN!!! You want to avoid being splashed by the sticky cola. Wait for the fountain to stop completely before approaching the bottle.



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Take it further:

- Repeat this experiment with other soft drinks and with other lollies.
- Repeat this experiment using more or less Mentos.

Big questions:

- Carbon dioxide is present in our atmosphere – what big problem does too much carbon dioxide in our atmosphere contribute to?
- What human activities cause carbon dioxide?



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