

Make your own plastic

Brief summary:

In this experiment you will make your own plastic by adding vinegar to warm milk.

You will need:

- Help from an adult
- Milk
- Vinegar
- Small saucepan
- Stove

What to do:

Step 1. With the help of an adult, heat a small amount of milk in a saucepan. You don't want the milk to be boiling or foaming but you do want it to be warm.

Step 2. When the milk is warm, add a small amount of vinegar. You will find a rubbery substance in the pan. Wash it carefully under the tap, being careful of the hot pan.

Step 3. You can shape the rubbery stuff, which is a form of plastic. It should harden in a few days.

Take it further:

Try adding food colouring to the milk – can you make a range of different coloured plastics?

Big questions:

- What is plastic made from?
- What do we use plastic for?
- Why is plastic an environmental problem?
- What is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?
- How can we reduce the amount of plastic we use?



For more information on how you can help our environment, or to make some suggestions of your own, please go to www.coolaustralia.org