

Magnetic Slime

(Or as Stu puts it, how to “make a mess”)

When we show integrity our friends feel valued and respected making them want to stick around with us. A bit like this magnetic slime wants to stick with magnets.

You need:

- PVA glue
- Disposable cups
- 1 tsp of Borax (local hardware store)
- 3 (big) tsp of Iron oxide (local hardware store)
- Craft stick (for mixing)
- Water
- Neodymium - Rare Earth magnet
- Gloves



Method:

1. Add borax into a cup with some water, mix together until borax dissolves
2. In another cup pour PVA glue until about a third full. Add some water to the cup, mixing until the glue and water have a smooth, consistent consistency.
3. Add iron oxide to the glue mixture and stir until well combined.
4. Pour a small amount of the borax mixture into the glue mixture and combine. (Note: if your mixture becomes too thick and ‘stiff’, it’s because too much borax was added. You could try making more glue mix and adding it to the stiff slime, but it might be quicker to just start again.)
5. Tip the slime onto a table (you might want to put a sheet of paper or something similar to protect the surface) and continue to knead/mix the slime.
6. Use the magnet to attract the slime and make it perform!

What’s happening?

With magnetic slime there are two major things happening.

First of all the chemical in borax called sodium tetraborate, has hooked the polymers in the glue together to form the slime-like material. The slime itself is bonded together by cohesion - the force that holds molecules of the same substance (in this case the polymers) together.

Second, the iron oxide powder contains iron filings, which are the magnetic material. The iron filings don't come out of the slime because of adhesion, which is the force that binds different molecules together.