

DIY Lava Lamps

You will need:

- Vegetable/sunflower oil
- Vinegar
- Food colouring
- Bicarbonate of soda
- Tall glass or bottle
- Spoon
- Small cup



1. Add three spoons of bicarbonate of soda into the tall glass or bottle.
2. Fill two thirds of the container with oil – but don't mix!
3. In the small cup, add some vinegar and several drops of food colouring.
4. Slowly add drops of your coloured vinegar into your oil/bicarb mixture and watch your lava lamp come to life!

Why not try adding different colours to your lava lamp?

THE SCIENCE

Oil and vinegar do not have the same density (how heavy something is for its size). Vinegar is more dense than this type of oil - that's why it sinks to the bottom of the container.

Once the vinegar touches the bottom of the container, it reacts with the bicarb.

This chemical reaction creates bubbling carbon dioxide which rises – these are the bubbles you see within the container.