

Epsom Salt Crystals

[Cool Crystals](#)

Crystals normally take a very long time to grow so they are rare and often a collectors item, since they are also very beautiful. Crystals are formed as the structure of the molecules in a mixture are forced close together rather than far apart. This can happen through freezing (like making ice, think snowflakes) or evaporation. This experimental activity will use Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate) to help you make your own replicas in just a few hours.

Materials

- ¼ Cup of Epsom Salt
- ¼ Cup of hot water
- Optional: Food coloring
- A microwave safe cup
- A plate
- Optional: a small jar

Instructions

1. In the cup measure out ¼ cup of epsom salt and ¼ cup of hot water. If you want to make more crystals you can do more salt and water, as long as you have a 1:1 ratio. (you can use the hot tap water of your sink if it gets hot enough, otherwise heat it to boiling in the microwave)
2. Stir together the salt and water until it all dissolves.
3. When all the salt is dissolved put the food coloring into the mixture this will create a colored crystal. If you want clear crystals, just leave this step out.
4. Place the mixture in the refrigerator and check on it regularly. The crystals should form at the bottom of the cup within 4 hours
5. Scoop the crystals onto a plate using a fork.
6. You can keep the crystals for longer in a small jar where they also won't be harmed. Otherwise they should stay crystals for a long time.