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how to make goo without borax

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How to Make Goo Without Borax: A Complete Guide to Safe, Kid Friendly Slime

Everyone loves the satisfying stretch and squish of slime, but many parents worry about the chemicals that can make it. Borax, a common activator, has sparked safety concerns and can be a no go for households with young children, pets, or those who simply want a cleaner alternative. The good news is you can create a fun, gooey masterpiece without ever touching borax. In this guide, we'll walk you through the science, the ingredients, and a variety of methods to craft your own borax free goo. Whether you're a seasoned slime maker or a first time crafter, you'll find a recipe that fits your style and safety needs.

Why Avoid Borax in Your Goo?

While borax is effective at turning glue into slime, it can cause irritation if it contacts skin, eyes, or is inhaled in dust form. It's also not ideal for children under 3 years old, as accidental ingestion can lead to stomach upset. Beyond safety, some parents prefer a more "natural" approach, avoiding synthetic chemicals altogether. By using household staples like contact lens solution or liquid starch, you can keep the goo safe, simple, and eco friendly.

Basic Ingredients for Borax Free Goo

Below is a quick reference list of the core components you'll need. Feel free to mix and match based on what you have on hand.

- White or clear PVA glue (polyvinyl acetate) – the base of most slimes.
- Activator – choose one of the following:
- Contact lens solution (contains boric acid, but in safe amounts for slime)
- Liquid starch (used in many "starch slime" recipes)
- Baking soda + contact lens solution (a low boron alternative)

Method 1: Classic Glue + Contact Lens Solution

This is the most popular borax free recipe. The contact lens solution contains a small amount of boric acid, but it's diluted enough to be safe for kids.

Ingredients

1. 1 cup white PVA glue
2. 1 cup water (optional, for a thinner goo)
3. 1–2 tablespoons contact lens solution
4. Food coloring, glitter, or other add ins (optional)

Steps

1. In a bowl, mix the glue and water until fully blended.
2. Stir in your chosen color or glitter.
3. Slowly add the contact lens solution, stirring constantly. You'll notice the mixture thickening almost instantly.
4. Keep stirring until the goo pulls away from the sides of the bowl.

5. Once it’s cohesive, knead it with your hands for 2–3 minutes to develop the right elasticity.

Result: A smooth, stretchable slime that’s safe for most kids. If it’s too sticky, add a pinch of baking soda; if it’s too stiff, add a splash of water.

Method 2: Glue + Liquid Starch

Liquid starch is a great activator for a goo that’s a bit thicker and more “oobleck like.” It’s also completely borax free.

Ingredients

1. 1 cup white PVA glue
2. 1 cup water (optional)
3. 1–2 tablespoons liquid starch
4. Optional: food coloring, glitter, or other add ins

Steps

1. Combine glue and water in a bowl.
2. Stir in any color or glitter.
3. Gradually add liquid starch, mixing until the goo thickens.
4. Continue kneading until you achieve the desired consistency.

Result: A slightly more viscous slime that’s great for sensory play. It’s also less likely to dissolve when left on the table for a long time.

Method 3: Glue + Baking Soda + Contact Lens Solution

For families who want to reduce boric acid even further, combine baking soda with contact lens solution. The baking soda neutralizes the acid, resulting in a mild activator.

Ingredients

1. 1 cup white PVA glue
2. 1 cup water (optional)
3. 1 tablespoon baking soda
4. 1–2 tablespoons contact lens solution
5. Optional: color, glitter, or other add ins

Steps

1. Mix glue and water in a bowl.
2. Stir in the baking soda until fully dissolved.
3. Slowly pour in the contact lens solution, stirring continuously.
4. When the mixture begins to form a slime, stop adding solution and knead until it’s smooth.

Result: A gentle, kid friendly goo that’s safe for even the most sensitive skin types.

Method 4: Cornstarch Oobleck as a Goo Base

For a non glue, borax free alternative, try cornstarch. This recipe creates a classic “oobleck” that behaves like a liquid under pressure and solidifies when you hold it.

Ingredients

1. 1 cup cornstarch

2. ½ cup water (adjust for desired consistency)
3. Optional: food coloring, glitter, or essential oils

Steps

1. In a bowl, whisk together cornstarch and water until smooth.
2. Add any color or glitter, stirring until evenly distributed.
3. Test the texture by pressing your thumb into the mixture; it should feel solid but give under pressure.
4. Adjust with more water for a runnier goo or more cornstarch for a thicker one.

Result: A non sticky, easy to-clean goo that's perfect for younger children or for quick, mess free play.

Tips for a Perfect Goo Texture

- Start with a small batch. You can always add more glue or activator, but you can't remove excess once it's added.
- Use room temperature water to avoid sudden temperature changes that can affect the goo's consistency.
- When adding glitter or beads, stir gently to avoid clumping.
- If your slime feels too sticky, sprinkle a pinch of baking soda and knead again.
- For a shinier finish, add a few drops of glycerin (available at pharmacies).

Safety Tips

- Always supervise children during slime creation to prevent ingestion.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling slime, especially if it's been stored for a while.
- Keep all ingredients out of reach of pets, as some additives may be harmful if ingested.
- Store slime in an airtight container to prevent drying out or contamination.
- If you experience any irritation, wash the affected area with soap and water immediately.

Storage and Longevity

To keep your goo fresh, seal it in a resealable plastic bag or airtight container. Most borax free slimes can last up to a month if stored properly. If the slime begins to dry out, sprinkle a few drops of water and knead it back together.

Creative Variations

Scented Goo

Add a few drops of your child's favorite essential oil—lavender, peppermint, or lemon—to create a soothing or energizing aroma. Use a small amount, as essential oils can be potent.

Glow in the Dark Slime

Mix in a glow in the dark powder (available at craft stores) into your glue before adding the activator. The result is a slime that lights up in the dark—perfect for nighttime play.

Chill Out Goo

Refrigerate your slime for 30 minutes to create a firmer texture. This is great for kids who like a more solid feel.

Custom Color Blends

Combine multiple colors of food coloring in a single batch to achieve unique hues. Alternatively, use natural dyes such as beet juice or spinach for a more eco friendly option.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is contact lens solution safe for kids? Yes, it’s safe in the small amounts used for slime. It contains boric acid, but the concentration is low and it’s commonly used for eye care.
2. Can I use this recipe for older kids or adults? Absolutely. The same principles apply; just adjust the amount of activator to suit your preferred texture.
3. What if I don’t have contact lens solution? Liquid starch or the baking soda + contact solution method are excellent alternatives.
4. Will this slime dissolve if left in the sun? Exposure to direct sunlight can dry it out. Keep it in a cool, shaded area or store it in a sealed container.
5. Can I use other types of glue? Clear or even glue with a higher glycerin content can produce a different feel. Experiment to find your favorite.

Conclusion

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