

Borax Crystal Snowflakes

Dragonfly
nature programs



Materials: pipe cleaners, glass jar(s), pencil(s), borax, water

Safety Concern: Borax should not be ingested! Do not allow children to play with the crystalized snowflakes.

Disposal: Do not pour the supersaturated solution down your drain as crystals can form in your pipes. Pull out the crystals by making the snowflakes first before disposal. Run warm water down the drain to rinse completely.

For a large batch (4-8 snowflakes): Combine 8 cups of water with 3 cups of powdered borax

For a small batch (2-4 snowflakes): Combine 4 cups of water with 1.5 cups of borax

Combine water and borax in a microwave safe jar or a pot. Heat slowly in the microwave or over the stove top (preferred method), stirring occasionally. Continue until borax crystals dissolve. Note: the water will be cloudy.



Set the solution aside to cool some. If it cools too much and crystals form, reheat to redissolve.

Cut pipe cleaners to fit the size of your glass jar. You do not want your pipe cleaners to touch the bottoms or the sides. The snowflake, once crystallized, will be bigger than the pipe cleaner structure so consider the size of the jar's mouth in determining pipe cleaner length.

Bend pipe cleaners to form any shape. If you are making snowflakes note: snowflakes are symmetrical, hexagonal crystals. In other words, a 6-sided shape that looks the same on all sides. We encourage you to try for a true snowflake structure.

Attach the top of the snowflake to the pencil with a longer pipe cleaner. Lie the pencil across the jar mouth to check for a good fit. Cut to size if need be. Carefully pour the borax solution into the jar while still warm, covering the pipe cleaner structure completely.

Crystals will form as the solution cools, so time to completion will vary (but will happen within hours). Allow the jar to sit undisturbed, checking on it periodically.



The Science: Borax is a natural powdered mineral with a repeated bonding pattern. It will form hard, long lasting crystals if it has something to attach to. By making a supersaturated solution, the crystals cannot completely dissolve and will crystalize out of solution.