

Making Silly Putty

Name _____

PURPOSE:

To take two common substance and produce a polymer with unusual properties.

PROCEDURE:

1. Using a 50 ml. beaker to measure, get **about** 25 ml. of Elmer's white glue and put **it into a disposable cup**.
2. Into the same **beaker** pour 20 ml. of water and stir to try to salvage some more glue. Pour this water/glue mixture into the same **disposable cup** as the glue from Step 1.
3. Stir the diluted glue well so that it is uniform. If you wish, this is the time to add four or five drops of food coloring, a drop or two at a time, until you have a color you like.
4. Have a square of aluminum foil ready on your bench.
5. Add **five ml.** (measure with your graduated cylinder) of 4% Borax solution to the cup and immediately stir well. A solid will gather on your stirring rod. Pull it off and put it onto the foil. **It is sticky but safe to handle.** Just wash your hands before leaving lab. It will be sticky for a minute or two as it absorbs water.
6. Test the material for various physical properties.
7. If you want to keep the sample, put it into a zip-top plastic bag.