



# Peppermint Oobleck Activity

## How Does Peppermint Oobleck Work?

A simple mixture of cornstarch and water creates Oobleck, a substance that transforms from a liquid to a solid with the simple addition of pressure. Pressure-dependent substances such as Oobleck are known as non-Newtonian fluids. By applying pressure to the mixture, the viscosity (thickness) increases, making the Oobleck feel hard and solid. When you run your hands slowly through the Oobleck, the mixture feels like a smooth liquid because the cornstarch particles are more fluid and movable. As children get their hands directly into the mixture, they will quickly learn how the pressure of their hands and movement throughout the mixture can turn the Oobleck from a solid to a liquid and then back again.

## Why Are Fine Motor Activities Important?

The addition of peppermints into the Oobleck mixture provides a unique outlet for developing fine motor skills. Have children use tweezers or other tools to move and pluck the peppermints out of the Oobleck. This fine motor activity helps to develop the muscles and coordination necessary for children to complete important tasks such as holding pencils, writing, and buttoning clothes. The peppermints also create beautiful swirls of red throughout the Oobleck and release a wonderfully minty scent in the air!

## Required Materials:

- Mixing Bowl (Item #70258)
- Cake or Brownie Pan
- Corn Starch
- Warm Water
- Peppermint Candies
- Easy-Grip Tweezers (Item #91081)

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### 1. Make the Oobleck Mixture

Mix 2 cups of corn starch with 1 cup of warm water. We recommend mixing with your hands instead of using a spoon or spatula. If you want to make a larger batch of Oobleck, be sure to keep a 2:1 ratio of corn starch to water. Once fully mixed (there should be no lumps left in the mixture), pour the Oobleck into your cake or brownie pan.

### 2. Add Peppermints and Explore

Drop several peppermint candies into the Oobleck. Encourage children to retrieve the candy from the mixture. Children can do this with their hands or they can use tweezers. Since Oobleck changes from a liquid to a solid when pressure is applied, pushing and grabbing the candy becomes a surprisingly challenging task. It's a perfect way to help children sharpen fine motor skills!

