

Homemade Lava Lamps

What you need:

1 liter water bottle or large jar

1 cup of water

1.5 cups of oil (or more)

Food coloring

Alka Seltzer tablets

Flashlight



How you do it:

1. First, pour the water into your bottle or jar. If using a bottle, a funnel will help.
2. Next pour the oil into your bottle or jar. Pour slowly to avoid too much mixing. Note about the amount of oil: I used about a cup and a half, maybe as much as two cups. The more oil you use, the more it will look like a real lava lamp.
3. Let the mixture settle, so there's a clear water layer and a clear oil layer.
4. Add food coloring. This is actually part of the fun - watch as the drops fall like tiny balls through the oil and then explode once they hit the water!
5. Gently mix the food coloring into the water until the water is a solid color.
6. Now for the super fun bit - drop in your Alka Seltzer tablet. Watch what happens as the gas is released and gas bubbles pull colored water up through the oil, then release and allow the colored water to drop back through the oil.
7. Shine a flashlight through the sides or the bottle to get the full lava lamp effect.
8. You can do this reaction over and over. If you are inclined, you can keep the water and oil bottle, and drop in more Alka Seltzer whenever you feel like watching science in action!

<https://sciencebob.com/blobs-in-a-bottle-2/>