



## Make a Bath Bomb

(recommended for ages 6-11)



Watch the instructional video at [www.librariesni.org.uk](http://www.librariesni.org.uk) or [www.ni.sciencefestival.com](http://www.ni.sciencefestival.com).

### You will need:

1. Baking soda & Citric acid
2. Stir stick
3. Oil
4. Coloured Epsom salts
5. Spray bottle with water
6. Plastic bauble
7. Bowl (not included)

### Method:

1. Measure out 2 parts baking soda to 1 part citric acid (all of the powder in the bags) into a bowl and mix together well with the stir stick.
2. Add some drops of oil (approximately 30) and mix well. each side, filling it full. If you have made a ball, break it in half and put half in one half of the bauble and the other half into the other half of the bauble. Press it in nice and compact and if there is still space, put more in.
3. Spray the mixture with 1 or 2 squirts of water and mix well. If it's not holding together well, add a few more squirts of water, but not too much!
4. Add the Epsom salts – if you'd like them to cover just the outside of your bath bomb, then make a ball from the mixture with your hands and then cover the ball with the salts. Put to the side for now.
5. Spray the inside of the round bauble with 1 squirt of water on each side and then pour the mixture into
6. Spray another squirt of water onto the mixture and close the bauble together, nice and snug. It should click together and hold in place.
7. Be careful not to spray too much water, as it will cause the reaction to start (the fizzing). You want just enough water for it to hold together.
8. Leave it dry for a day or so and then open the bauble carefully to remove your bath bomb. It will then be ready to place in the bath. Enjoy!

### The Science:

Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) is an alkali, and citric acid is an acid. When the two come together in the presence of water, a **chemical reaction** or, more specifically, a **neutralisation reaction**, takes place, creating bubbles of carbon dioxide, which is the fizzing that you see. This chemical reaction, combined with colour, oil and a lovely scent, gives you a treat for all your senses of hearing, sight, touch and smell!

**\*\*Caution: Choking hazard. Keep out of reach of children under 3.\*\***

