

Making giant bubbles for events

Adapted by Nightingale Gardeners from the following websites:

- <http://www.stephstwogirls.co.uk/2014/05/how-to-make-your-own-huge-giant-bubbles.html>
- <http://happyhooligans.ca/homemade-giant-bubbles/>

It is good to have a little wind; it is less good when it is very hot and dry. Need space to run (and not trip). Kids (and adults) love it – but they need to learn how not to trample on each other and hit each other with any weights. Looks good even in the dark when bubbles catch the light.

Need:

1. Medium sized tub bucket for mixing and dipping
2. Stirring spoon
3. Ingredients (see below)
4. Measuring jug or cup measure, plus tablespoons
5. Things to dip into the mix (see below): hula hoop, triangle sticks, net sticks
6. Towels (it gets messy!)

Recipes

Original recipe	Metric	X 3 - larger quantity (for medium-sized tub bucket)
6 cups* water	1.5 litre	4.5 litres
1/2 cup cornflour**	125 ml	375 ml [most of typical box]
1/2 cup washing up liquid***	125 ml	375 ml [all of typical bottle]
1 tbsp glycerine/glycerol****	15 ml	45 ml [about quarter of typical bottle]
1 tbsp baking powder*****	15 ml	45 ml [about third of typical jar]

* assuming a US cup which is roughly 236ml, but we will use 250 ml for simplicity

** Sainsbury's cornflour, 500 g, is about £1.20

*** We used (green) Fairy Original washing up liquid, 383 ml squeezy bottle, is about £1

**** Boots do a value 200 ml bottle of glycerin for about £1.30 . Or Sainsbury's do small (38 ml) bottles – in the baking section.

***** Sainsbury's baking powder, 160 g, is about 80p

There are other recipes that use guar gum and xanthum but these are more difficult to source.

How to make the mixture

1. Measure dry ingredients first (cornflour and baking powder), add water slowly with stirring, add glycerol and washing up liquid. It looks a strange green opaque colour.
2. Leave for at least one hour (can be overnight).
3. Soak in it any dipping kit that has cotton for a while before using.



We find it is best to have more than one dipping bucket and a wand per bucket. Keep it away from food (unless you want soapy cornflour on your party food) and it isn't very friendly to grass in the short term.

Dipping kit - ideas

Hula hoop

Can dip into a reservoir of any kind (could be a paddling pool) and run with it to make bubbles or pull over head of child in the reservoir to make a bubble column.

Triangle wand

This makes the largest single bubbles.

- Two sticks (could be bamboo or fishing rod or just sticks) – the longer the better.
- Cotton piping/rope (preferably without a nylon core) – lots of it (can get from Screwfix).
- Way to attach rope to the sticks (could be gaffer tape or a screw and eye).
- Weight for the point of the triangle (could be a washer with a hole – this is the most risky bit for small children – can bonk them on the head). Or just a big knot of rope.

Thread the weight onto a long piece of rope and attach both ends to the two sticks. Add the shorter length of rope to make the top of the triangle.

Net version of wand

This makes multiple bubbles – easier than the single triangle. As above, but add extra pieces of rope to make divisions – for example two on each side of the triangle.

Rectangle wands

Of any size, thread tubes of solid material (could be plastic drinking straws) with the cotton string or rope. Tie the ends in a knot. Hold the tubes as handles on either side.

Small wands

Can make out of plastic drinking straws and cotton string.

T shirt hoop

Can cut off the hem of a T shirt (keep as a 'loop') make slits to thread the sticks through.

Bunches of plastic straws

Tie bunches of plastic straws with an elastic band. Dip and blow.

Shaped wands on a single stick

Make wire shapes (like stars) and attach securely to a stick. Dip and let the wind catch them (or blow).