

Make Your Own Rock Candy

Recommended: watch this YouTube video before you start, it is very helpful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSQy8sHmpGs&t=4s>

What you need:

- Clothespin or long clip
- Strings & pencils or wooden skewers
- Wooden spoon
- Small saucepan
- Wax Paper
- CLEAN Paperclips or washers (if using string)
- 4 – 6 clean, narrow glasses or jars (**must be glass**)
- 2 cups water
- 4 cups granulated sugar + extra for dipping string or sticks
- Food coloring (optional)
- Natural flavoring (this is optional, but you can try peppermint, strawberry, cherry, orange or any flavor you like — this is your experiment!)

Step 1:

Add 2 cups of water to a small saucepan and bring it to a boil over medium heat. Slowly add 4 cups of granulated sugar, about ½ a cup at a time, and use the wooden spoon to stir during each addition of sugar. Once the sugar is completely dissolved and looks clear, bring it to a vigorous boil. Remove from heat and cool for 15-20 minutes.

Step 2:

Get creative! Add food coloring to the mixture or, if using a natural flavoring, add a couple drops at this time. Once the solution has cooled, pour it into the clean glasses or jars. A tall and narrow glass works best. Fill the solution close to the top and cover with a piece of wax paper to keep it clean while you move to the next step.

Step 3:

Prepare the string or wooden skewer (repeat the steps below for each glass you have filled with the sugar solution)

If using string:

Tie one end of the string (twine or cotton) to the middle of a pencil and let it hang. Look at the glass and cut the string to roughly 2/3 of the depth of the glass (you want to give your Rock Candy room to grow, so make sure it doesn't touch the bottom of the glass). Tie the paperclip or washer to the bottom of the

string to work as a small weight. Carefully dip string into the sugar solution. When fully saturated, remove the string and roll it in the extra sugar. Lay string flat to dry on wax paper for about 5 minutes, making sure it's nice and straight.

If using a wooden skewer:

Carefully dip the wooden skewer into the sugar solution. When fully saturated, remove the skewer and roll it in the extra sugar. Lay skewer flat to dry on wax paper for about 5 minutes.

Step 4:

Next, if using string:

Dip the sugary string into the glass with the pencil laying over the rim of the glass and the string with paperclip or washer hanging into the solution.

Next if using a wooden:

Place the dried skewer into the center of each glass. Once in place, clasp the clothespin or clip to the top of the wooden skewer. Make sure the stick is in the center of the glass and raised so it doesn't touch the bottom.

Step 5:

Now it's time to let science do its work! Once you've completed the steps above, gently move the glasses to a place where they will be safe. Allow them to sit for up to 2 weeks or longer, depending on how big you want your Rock Candy to grow. During that time, **be very careful not to move the glasses so the Rock Candy doesn't break.**

Step 6:

When the Rock Candy reaches your desired size, set aside another piece of wax paper. Carefully crack the sugar on the surface of the glass and remove the string or wooden skewer. Set it on the wax paper and allow it to dry before taking a crunchy bite.

Source: Betty Lab

<https://www.bettycrocker.com/bettylab/make-your-own-rock-candy>