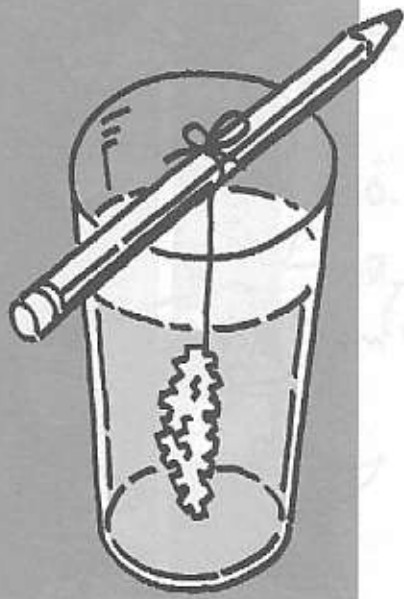


Making Salt Crystals

Try this experiment to make beautiful crystals out of salt and hot water.

You need:

- a small saucepan
- 250 ml water
- 56 - 75 ml salt, or more
- a clear drinking glass or jar
- a long pencil
- a piece of cotton string
- metal paper clip.



1. Boil the water in the saucepan, and turn off the heat.
2. While stirring, slowly add the salt, a spoonful at a time.
3. If all the salt dissolves, add a little more and keep stirring until no more salt will dissolve and is starting to gather at the bottom of the pot. This is known as a supersaturated solution.
4. When the solution has cooled, pour it into the drinking glass or jar taking care not to transfer any undissolved salt.
5. Tie one end of the string around the pencil and attach the paper clip to the other. Drop the paper clip into the solution making sure it doesn't touch anywhere. Rest the pencil on the rim of the glass.
6. Put the glass in a place where it will stay cool and undisturbed. (You must not touch it or lift it up!)
7. Within 24 hours you will start to see crystals forming on the paper clip and string.
8. Use a magnifying glass to see the cubical crystal shapes.