

Oobleck

The name oobleck is derived from the Dr. Seuss book *Bartholemew and the Oobleck* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9bo5N2N5zl>). Oobleck is a non-Newtonian fluid composed of 1 part water and 1½ to 2½ parts cornstarch. It has a bitter taste but it is not toxic.

Non-Newtonian means it can behave as a solid or a liquid, depending on applied force. Applying pressure increases its thickness (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wiYtoG9kZE>). A quick tap on the surface of oobleck will make it feel hard, because it forces the cornstarch particles together. If you slowly dip your hand in it your fingers slide through it. Moving slowly gives the cornstarch particles time to move out of the way. Some shampoos, ketchups, and toothpastes behave like oobleck.

A person may walk on a large tub of oobleck without sinking due to its thickening properties, given the individual moves quickly enough to provide enough force with each step to cause the thickening. If oobleck is placed on a large stereo speaker at a sufficiently high volume, it will thicken and form standing waves in response to low frequency sound waves (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zoTKXXNQUIU>).

If your oobleck dries out you can add a little water. Don't get oobleck on any object that can be stained since your oobleck contains food coloring, and don't pour your oobleck on a stereo speaker or on anything that cannot be easily cleaned, including furniture and floors. You must keep the lid on your oobleck container unless you have poured it into a metal or plastic bowl. Ask an adult to help you pour your oobleck back into its little container.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Newtonian_fluid#Oobleck
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/oobleck-bring-science-home/>

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