

Growing Synthetic Crystals



Supplies

Epsom Salt / Magnesium

Sulfate (Unscented)

Glass Measuring Cup

Clear Glass Cups

Stainless Steel Spoon

Refrigerator

Instructions:

- 1 Before starting, ensure all your materials are as clean as possible and avoid touching the Epsom salt solution to prevent contamination, which can cause your crystals to stop growing.
- 2 Measure out $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Epsom salts with your measuring cup and pour them into your glass cup.
- 3 Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of hot water into the glass cup and mix with your spoon.
- 4 Continue to mix for two minutes, until most or all of the salts have dissolved.
- 5 Once your cup has cooled, put it in the refrigerator in a place it won't be disturbed or moved. We'll need to leave it in for at least 12 hours for the full effect, but you can check on it every three hours or so to see if you can see any change.
- 6 After 12 hours, you can remove your cup & examine it (with a magnifying glass if you have one). Drain about half the liquid inside and leave the solution out to continue growing.
- 7 Once you touch your crystals, they'll start to go powdery white which means they're degrading. Unfortunately, our fridge-grown crystals aren't as resilient as lab-grown ones, but we can reuse our crystals the same way we'd use Epsom salts normally: for bathes and spa treatments.

Want more? The experiment can be repeated with more water & more salts for bigger crystals. Just use a one-to-one volume ratio. Try putting clean and sanitized eggshells in the solution to create your own miniature geodes!

**Parental supervision required. Recommended for ages 6+*