

How to make cornflour gloop

This is a fascinating mix which is hard to describe and has to be experienced!

It is difficult to give precise amounts and measurements for this but a large 500g box of cornflour needs to be mixed with approximately 350 - 400ml of cold water. Add a few drops of food colouring to the water if desired.

Go slowly with the water at first. You are aiming for an apparently runny mixture but it will also be fairly stiff as you dig in to it with the spoon. It can be mixed in a large bowl but is best played with in a shallow dish or on a deep sided tray.

It is 'right' when the gloop looks like a liquid and appears runny but when you dig your hands in it feels solid. You can pick up a fistful and even roll it in to a ball but then it simply runs through your fingers.

Children love exploring this with just their hands, although you can add scoops and spoons if they are initially unsure.

I'd recommend doing this in the kitchen away from carpets and soft furnishings but although it appears horribly messy at first it is in fact reasonably easy to clean up. If left on fabric for just a few minutes the water evaporates and the powder can be brushed off. Similarly splashes on a hard floor are best brushed up, don't be tempted to mop as this just seems to dry leaving a dusty, smeared finish! You'll need to wipe over worktops with a damp cloth a couple of times when you've finished, but otherwise it's not as bad as it looks.

There are not a lot of variations to this. It is great fun as it is but instead of adding the colouring with the water you can try dripping a few drops of food colouring onto the surface of the white mixture and watching it spread out before mixing it in with your hands. If you are going to try this just be aware that some colours, e.g. red, do stain hands and clothes!