

Crystal Growth

Materials:

Salt

Bluing

Water

Ammonia (Household grade)

Petri Dishes

Safety Glasses

Directions:

Mix Together in a small beaker or Erlenmeyer:

4 units Salt

4 units Liquid Bluing

4 Units Water

4 Units Ammonia

Pour the mixture over small pieces of porous rock, charcoal or pieces of broken clay flowerpots in a shallow glass or plastic petri dish. Crystals will begin to grow in six hours and continue for three days, depending on the humidity, temperature and how much airflow is present.

Add more of the salt-bluing-ammonia-water mix starting on the third day to keep the crystals growing. Be careful to avoid dripping any of the new solution on the growing crystals or they will be damaged. In time the crystals may grow over the sides of the bowl.