



Secrets of a Bubble Scientist

Pinhead Institute: Punk Science
“Bubblemania: Bigger, Better Bubbles”
Fantastic Physicist - Dr. Ed Lyman



Making bubble solutions at home is cheap and fun, and along the way you may learn a thing or two about bubble science! Here are a couple of recipes that I have found work well in the dry air of the Rocky Mountains.

- **Regular Bubble Solution.** This one is good for blowing plain old bubbles.

1 cup regular strength Dawn Liquid soap
10 cups distilled water
¼ cup glycerin

The glycerin is available at the pharmacy, it is just sugar. It helps the bubbles to last longer by keeping them from drying out. If you can't find regular Dawn (I found it at Wal-Mart) you can use ultra if you increase the water to 15 cups. This solution works best if it is allowed to settle for a day or so. Also, it is important to keep the solution clean and free of dust and foam — no vigorous mixing, use a clean container, and keep it covered!

- **Giant, Self-healing Bubble Solution.** This one makes big bubbles that are quite strong, in a bubble-sense. It does not make very good small bubbles.

To 1.5 gallons hot water add:
½ t J-Lube (available on the web)
A 4.25 oz tube of Surgilube
4 T Glycerin

Mix this stuff well with a paint mixer, the kind that goes on the end of a drill. Then stir in carefully but thoroughly (so as not to make foam)

16 oz Dawn non-ultra (15 oz bottle plus 2 T)
½ C Dawn manual pot and pan detergent

This solution seems to work best right away, but I have stored it in the past. Again keep it clean!

To blow giant bubbles, make a giant bubble blower, shown at right. The strings are thick cotton twine (needs to absorb the bubble solution well) the sticks are wooden dowels or bamboo sticks.

