

OOZE BALL™

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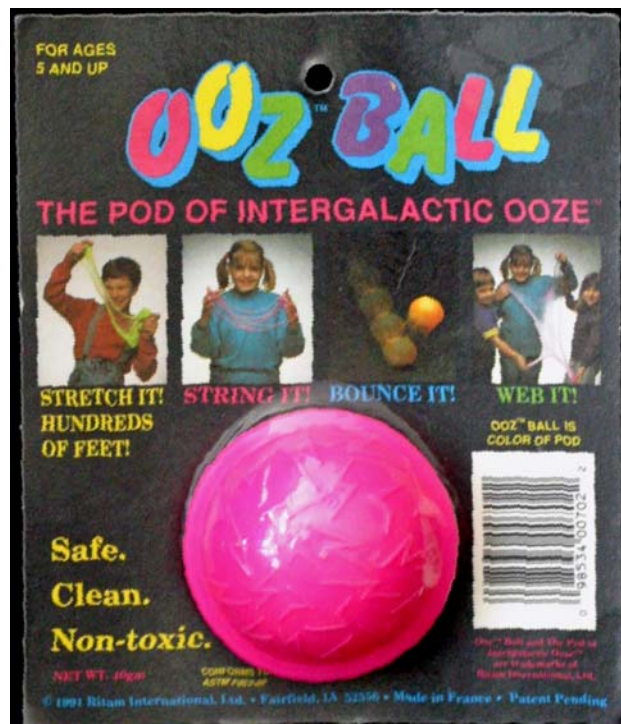
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An Ooz Ball™, a product of Ritam International, Ltd., was an elastic non-Newtonian fluid that comes packed in a small plastic pod called The Pod of Intergalactic Ooze™. A representative from Ritam International explained that it was composed of thirteen ingredients using a talcum powder base. There is some polymerization in the Ooz Ball™, but all ingredients are water soluble.

The Ooz Ball™, if pulled slowly, can be stretched to “hundreds of feet” forming thin strands. It can also be stretched to form a thin web. If dropped, an Ooz Ball™ will bounce, but if left sitting on a surface, it quickly settles into puddle.

During use, an Ooz Ball™ will dry out and should be re-moistened using a few drops of water or oil-free moisturizer. Since it absorbs water very slowly, it should be held for a few seconds under the faucet and then stored in its pod for several hours or overnight.

A substance resembling an Ooz Ball™ can be made from household materials.



PROCEDURE

1. Materials required:

- paper cup, 5 ounce
- stirring rod (popsicle stick or equivalent)
- measuring spoons or cups, 1 teaspoon (5 mL)
- paper towel
- plastic zip-loc-type bag for storage
- talcum powder, such as Baby Powder or equivalent
- oil-free moisturizer, such as Revlon Clean & Clear™ or equivalent
- Elmer's Glue-All white glue
- saturated borax solution, sodium borate, $\text{Na}_3\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$ (prepared by mixing 20 Mule Team Borax with water until no more dissolves)
- water
- food color

2. Safety Precautions:

Wear safety goggles or glasses while performing this experiment.

There are no safety hazards associated with these materials.

3. Disposal:

All materials can safely be disposed of in the trash.

4. Experimental Procedure:

Obtain a paper cup and stirrer.

Measure 1 level teaspoon (5 mL) of talcum powder and place it in the cup.

Add 10 mL (2 teaspoons) of oil-free moisturizing lotion, 10 mL (2 teaspoons) of Elmer's glue, and 10 mL (2 teaspoons) water. Stir well to mix all ingredients.

Add up to 5 drops of food color to the materials in the paper cup and stir well.

Add 5 mL (1 teaspoon) of borax solution and stir well.

Remove the Ooze Ball from the cup. The Ooze Ball may be sticky at first but will become less sticky after handling. The Ooze Ball should stretch and flow easily, but it will tear if pulled hard.

Store the Ooze Ball in a plastic bag.

Care and Cleaning:

The Ooze Ball will dry out and become less stretchy after handling. It can be re-hydrated by mixing a small amount of oil free moisturizer with it or by wetting it with water before storage. The Ooze Ball will absorb water very slowly.

The Ooze Ball can be removed from carpets, furniture, and clothing by washing with soap and water.