

Tutorial: biofabricate your glue



Supplies:

- 3 tablespoons of flour or wheat starch
- A little cold water
- 200 ml water for boiling
- Optional: another 500 ml water if you want to work au bain-marie
- Sugar

Steps:

1. **Bring a pan of water to the boil.** Put 200 ml of water in a saucepan and bring to the boil.
2. **Stir in the flour and cold water.** Take 3 tablespoons of flour or starch and gradually pour in bits of room-temperature water. Stop when all the flour is wet and the mixture is just liquid enough to pour.
3. **Stir the liquid mixture into the boiling water.** When the water is boiling, add the flour mixture, stirring constantly. The mixture will foam when it comes to the boil. Stirring or whisking will prevent the mixture from boiling over, burning or clumping. You can also heat the mixture au bain-marie by hanging the pan with the flour paste in a larger pan with about 500 ml of boiling water. Add more water if it becomes too thick to stir.
4. **Take it off the heat when it is thick and smooth.** This can take between 2 and 10 minutes. If you use starch, the mixture will be translucent when done.

5. **Perfect your glue.** In many cases, you can use the mixture as soon as it has cooled down. If your mixture is not sticky enough, stir in sugar. Start with 3 tablespoons of sugar and add more if needed. To keep the mixture longer and to keep out bugs, you can add a little copper sulphate.

6. **Let the mixture cool.** When it is at room temperature, it should be a sticky, jelly-like paste. Each brand of flour or starch is a little different, so the exact substance may vary. As long as there are no lumps in it, it's good. You may want to pour the mixture through a fine sieve or pantyhose to remove lumps.

7. **Store it in a sealed container in the fridge.** At room temperature, the glue starts to smell after 2 days and will start to mould after a week.