# SSERC logo

**SSERC Risk Assessment** (revised version March 2018)

(based on HSE’s INDG 163 ‘Risk assessment - A brief guide to controlling risks in the workplace’)

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| Activity assessed | Polymer Slime |
| *Date of assessment* | 30th June 2020 |
| *Date of review (****Step 5****)* |  |
| *School* |  |
| *Department* |  |

| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Step 4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *List Significant hazards here:* | *Who might be harmed and how?* | *What are you already doing?**What further action is needed?* | *Actions* |
| *by whom?* | *Due date* | *Done* |
| PVA has No significant hazard |  |  |  |  |  |
| Borax is a reproductive toxin (Cat 1A) above 4.5% | Technician making up Borax | Wear goggles (BS EN 166 3) and gloves.Avoid raising dust. |  |  |  |
| 4% Borax solution, though not classed as such, is an irritant to some people | Pupils, teacher, technician | If there is a likelihood of splashes or spillage, then consider wearing eye protection and/or gloves (especially for sensitive skin). If in contact with skin, wash off with copious amounts of water. |  |  |  |
| Slime has no significant hazard – though may sometimes be irritating to sensitive skin. |  | Pupils/adults with sensitive skin are best wearing gloves. |  |  |  |
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| **Description of activity:**Pupils mix a 4% solution of PVA with a 4% solution of borax. This forms a polymer slime.The viscosity of different mixtures can be investigated. |
| **Additional comments:**The risk to pupils of handling the slime is slight but they should, as with any chemistry activity, wash their hands thoroughly afterwards. Pupils should not take the slime home where it could dry out and expose them to solid borax.**Taking slime home** – The slime mixture has a concentration of borax that is of no significant hazard. However, if left to try it is conceivable (though unlikely) that solid borax may appear on the surface of the ‘slime’ and be handled. It is therefore a sensible idea not to allow pupils to take it home. |