

FANTASTIC PLASTIC: CAN YOU CUT A LIQUID?

Polymers can be in solid or liquid form. You will observe a solution of a polymer (called 'polyox') to see whether its properties are the same as other liquids.

Teacher demonstration

Your teacher will demonstrate an experiment to show the difference between a polymer solution and other liquids. The polymer solution is poured from one beaker to another, and then scissors are used to try to 'cut' the solution.

1. What do you see happen when your teacher pours the polymer solution?
2. What do you see when your teacher uses the scissors?
3. What happens if you try to cut pouring water?
4. Why do you think you can't cut pouring water? Use the idea of a liquid being made of lots of separate molecules to help your explanation.
5. Why do you think the polymer solution behaves differently from water when you try to cut it? Use the idea of long chain molecules to help your explanation.



Wear eye protection. Avoid touching the polymer solution. If you get the solution onto your hands, wash them thoroughly.

