

## FANTASTIC PLASTIC: MAKING YOUR OWN RUBBER ERASER

We use rubber erasers all the time but don't stop to think how they are made or how they work. Here you will make your own eraser and test it.

1. Put 10 cm<sup>3</sup> rubber latex into a cup.
2. Add a squirt of lemon juice and stir.
3. Drop the solid rubber into clean water and mould into the shape you want for your eraser.
4. Dry using a towel.
5. Allow to dry thoroughly by leaving it for at least 30 minutes in a warm place. It may be a good idea to leave it to dry overnight. You will know that it is thoroughly dry as it will appear a much darker yellow than when it is newly made.
6. Test your new eraser by making some pencil marks on paper and trying to rub them out.
7. What do you notice about the way that an eraser removes the pencil marks? A pencil mark is a line of graphite sticking to the paper. Where does it go when you rub it out?



*Some people have allergic reactions to liquid rubber latex. Wear protective gloves to avoid touching the liquid rubber, and wear eye protection. Do not inhale the fumes, which contain ammonia.*

