

How To Grow a Borax Crystal Snowflake



Do real snowflakes melt too quickly? Grow a [borax](#) crystal snowflake, color it blue if you like, and enjoy the sparkle all year long! A [video tutorial](#) showing how to grow [borax crystal snowflakes](#) is also available.

Borax Crystal Snowflake Materials

- string
- wide mouth jar (pint)
- pipe cleaners
- borax (see tips)
- pencil
- boiling water
- blue food coloring (opt.)
- scissors

Time Required: Overnight

Let's Make Borax Crystal Snowflakes!

1. The first step of making borax crystal snowflakes is to make [the snowflake shape](#). Cut a pipe cleaner into three equal sections.
2. Twist the sections together at their centers to form a six-sided snowflake shape. Don't worry if an end isn't even, just trim to get the desired shape. The snowflake should fit inside the jar.
3. Tie the string to the end of one of the snowflake arms. Tie the other end of the string to the pencil. You want the length to be such that the pencil hangs the snowflake into the jar.
4. Fill the wide mouth pint jar with boiling water.
5. Add borax one tablespoon at a time to the boiling water, stirring to dissolve after each addition. The amount used is 3 tablespoons borax per cup of water. It is okay if some undissolved borax settles to the bottom of the jar.
6. If desired, you may tint the mixture with food color.
7. Hang the pipe cleaner snowflake into the jar so that the pencil rests on top of the jar and the snowflake is completely covered with liquid and hangs freely (not touching the bottom of the jar).
8. Allow the jar to sit in an undisturbed location overnight.
9. Look at the pretty crystals!!! You can hang your snowflake as a decoration or in a window to catch the sunlight.

Tips for Success

1. Borax is available at grocery stores in the laundry soap section, such as 20 Mule Team Borax Laundry Booster. Do not use Boraxo soap.
2. Because boiling water is used and because borax isn't intended for eating, adult supervision is recommended for this project.
3. If you can't find borax, you can use sugar or salt (may take longer to grow the crystals, so be patient). Add sugar or salt to the [boiling water](#) until it stops dissolving. Ideally you want no crystals at the bottom of the jar.

Grow a Magic Crystal Christmas Tree



The magic part of the magic crystal Christmas tree is partly how quickly the crystals grow and partly the whole notion of a paper or sponge tree magically sprouting crystal foliage. This project is a variation on the [charcoal crystal garden](#), except the crystals are grown on a tree form. You can watch a [timelapse video](#) of this project to see what to expect.

Magic Crystal Christmas Tree Materials

- 6 tablespoons or 90 ml water
- 6 tablespoons or 90 ml table salt (preferably uniodized)
- 6 tablespoons or 90 ml Mrs. Stewart's liquid laundry bluing [[buy on Amazon](#)]
- 1 tablespoon or 15 ml household ammonia
- food coloring (optional)

Make the magic solution by dissolving the salt in the water and stirring in the bluing liquid and the ammonia.

Grow a Magic Crystal Christmas Tree

There are couple of different ways you can go here. You can cut a sponge into the shape of a Christmas tree, set it in a shallow dish, and pour [the crystal solution](#) over the sponge. Set the dish someplace where it won't be disturbed.

You can dot the sponge with food coloring (like ornaments), if desired. Depending on the temperature and humidity, crystals may start to appear on the sponge Christmas tree in less than an hour. You should have a nice set of crystals if you let the dish sit out overnight.

The other method is to cut out a cardboard or blotting paper Christmas tree. If you make two of these trees, you can cut one halfway down the top and the other halfway up from the bottom, match the cut ends together, and create a standing 3-dimensional tree. You can decorate your tree with food coloring ornaments. Set this tree in a shallow dish that contains the crystal [growing solution](#). Crystal 'leaves' will start to grow on your tree as the liquid is wicked up the paper and evaporates. If you can't get laundry bluing, you can get inexpensive kits [[compare prices at Amazon](#)] to grow magic crystal Christmas trees.