

Dear Jax,
 Why do bubbles pop?
 Kyle Oholendt
 San Antonio, Texas

Dear Kyle,
 Bubbles pop for 1 reason. They get holes. Holes happen when something dry touches the bubble. It can be your finger or even a piece of dust. Dry stuff touching bubbles pops them.

If you could blow a bubble in a dust-free room, it would not pop. It would just slowly lose its air like a balloon loses its air.

My friend Louie Pearl makes bubble toys. He blew a bubble that lasted for 30 days! It was blown in a jar. *You Can* make great bubble stuff to see how bubbles pop!

Jax Place
 Jax Place

experiment #1

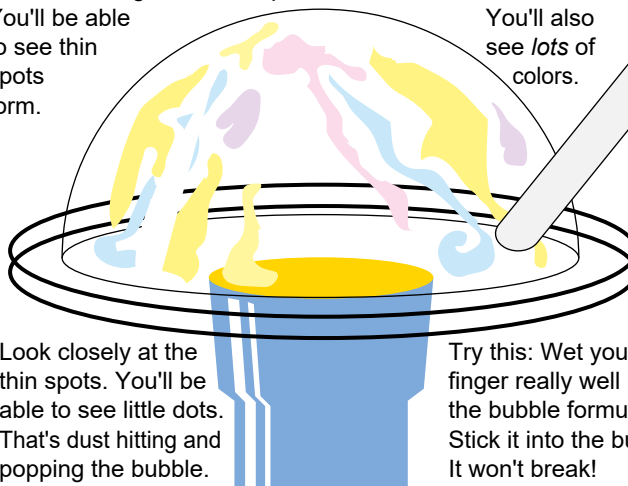
WHAT YOU NEED: Flashlight - soda straw - plastic coffee can lid - bubble formula - dark room



WHAT TO DO: Set up the lid and flashlight like in the drawing. Dump a spoonful of your bubble formula into the lid. Wet the lid and the straw with the bubble stuff. Get it really wet. Turn off the lights. Turn on the flashlight. Use the straw to blow a bubble on the lid. Pull the straw out of the bubble. Sit and watch the bubble. It will get thin on top and thick on the bottom.

You'll be able to see thin spots form.

You'll also see *lots* of colors.



Look closely at the thin spots. You'll be able to see little dots. That's dust hitting and popping the bubble.

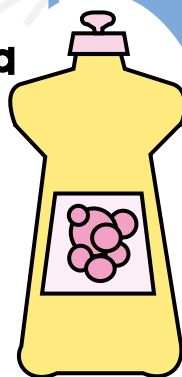
Try this: Wet your finger really well in the bubble formula. Stick it into the bubble. It won't break!

tremendous bubbles formula

Better And Lots Cheaper

WHAT YOU NEED: Liquid dishwashing soap - glycerine (from drug store) - gallon jug

WHAT TO DO: Add $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of the soap to a gallon of water. Add the soap last so you don't get a jug full of suds. Add 1 tablespoon of glycerine, which will help your bubbles last longer. Ask the people at the drug store for it. You may want to experiment by trying things like Jell-O, Certo or even sugar instead. I use glycerine. Use this for your experiment and just for fun.



IMPORTANT: The dish soap you use has to be clear or transparent. Do *not* use any lotion-type soaps.

Also, the more expensive brands work better for bubbles. I use Dawn or Ajax, but *You Can* try others. Soap for a dishwashing machine will not work.

