

Risk Assessment Bath Bomb Making

Activity

Bath bomb making class using sodium bicarbonate (bicarbonate of soda) and citric acid, with water (spritz) to bind, mixing, moulding/pressing, and packaging.

Location

Indoor venue with sturdy tables, good ventilation, access to handwashing, and clear fire exits.

People at risk

Participants (including those with asthma/sensitivities), instructor/host, venue staff, visitors.

Key hazards, risks, and controls

Powder dust (citric acid/bicarbonate) – inhalation and respiratory irritation Risks: Coughing, throat irritation; potential trigger for asthma.

Controls:

Use good ventilation (open windows/doors or mechanical ventilation).

Instruct participants to pour powders slowly and close to the bowl to reduce dust.

Consider pre-measuring ingredients into individual portions to minimise handling.

Keep a “no blowing” rule (do not blow powder off tables/hands).

Eye irritation from powders Risks: Stinging/irritation if powder gets into eyes.

Controls:

Safety briefing: keep hands away from face; wash hands after mixing.

Provide access to running water/eyewash (or clean water bottles) for immediate flushing.

Skin irritation/dryness (citric acid contact) Risks: Dry, irritated skin; discomfort for sensitive skin.

Controls:

Encourage handwashing after activity; provide moisturiser if appropriate.

Cover any cuts with waterproof plasters before starting.

Reaction with water (fizzing) – splashes and mess Risks: Over-wetting causes rapid fizzing, splatter, and slippery surfaces.

Controls:

Use spray bottles/misters for water; add gradually.

Use mixing bowls with high sides; keep bowls stable on non-slip mats.

Wipe spills immediately; keep paper towels available.

Slips/trips from spills and clutter Risks: Slips from wet powder paste; trips over bags/cables.

Controls:

Keep walkways clear; store bags under tables.

Clean spills immediately; cordon area until safe.

If using extension leads for any equipment (e.g., lighting), tape down cables.

Participant behaviour and supervision Risks: Horseplay leading to dust clouds, spills, or eye exposure.

Controls:

Safety briefing at start; clear rules (no running, no throwing powders).

Maintain appropriate instructor-to-participant ratio.

Under-18s only with guardian consent and close supervision.

Aprons recommended.

Emergency procedures

Eye exposure (powder): Flush with clean running water for at least 10–15 minutes; remove contact lenses if easy to do; seek medical advice if irritation persists.

Skin irritation: Rinse with water, wash gently with soap; discontinue activity if symptoms persist.

Inhalation irritation: Move to fresh air; offer water; follow participant’s asthma plan/inhaler if applicable; seek medical help if breathing difficulty occurs.

Slip/fall: Provide first aid; record incident; review controls.

Residual risk rating

With controls in place, residual risk is Low (mainly minor irritation and slip risk).