

Microwave "Ivory" Soap

Equipment

- Ivory Soap – use 1/6 bar to be on the safe side with our microwave
- Microwaveable plate
- Microwave
- Chair so child can watch the action
- Water
- Roll of Toilet Paper

Experiment

Cut bar of soap into six roughly equal pieces.
I cut my bar in half along the length first
I then cut each half into three roughly equal pieces
Place chair so child can look through the microwave window
Have child feel the soap and describe how it feels.
Don't rub the eyes without washing their hand's first
Place Ivory soap on microwaveable plate
Place plate and Ivory soap in microwave
Run microwave on high for 1-2 minutes
Experiment with the time
It should start expanding after 15 seconds or so.
You can not overcook, it just stops expanding as some point
It will expand to six -- ten times it original volume.

Let the soap and plate cool after removing from the microwave so the child doesn't burn their fingers. As it cools, the volume may collapse some.

If you don't like the smell, microwave a cup of water with vinegar and lemon juice in it.

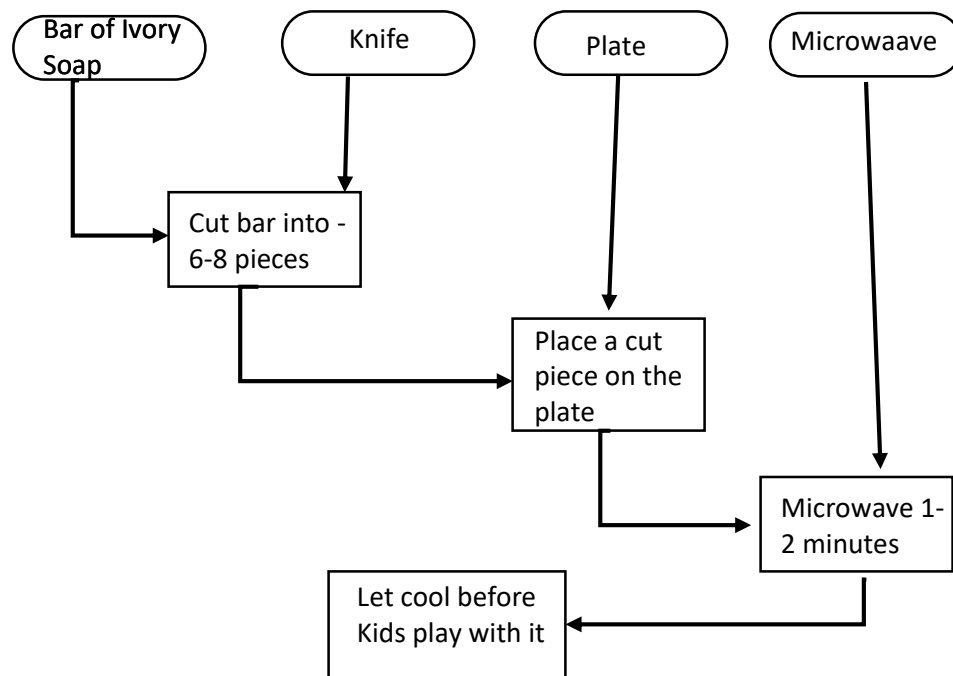
Have your child feel how the soap has changed, from a bar to fluffy, crumbly powder.

Let them crumble it in their hands.

Let them chop it up with butter knives.

Make sure they don't rub their eyes without washing their hand's first.

Combine the soap with water and toilet paper to make a clean mud that is a moldable dough.



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Other References:

Awesome Science Experiments for Kids, Crystal Chatterton, Rockridge Press, 2018, pages 34—35

The 101 Coolest Simple Science Experiments, Rachel Miller, Holly Homer, Jamie Harrington, Page Street Publishing Co, Pages 12--13

<https://happyhooligans.ca/ivory-soap-microwave-experiment/>

<https://www.wimp.com/microwavesoap/>