

How To Make A Tornado In A Bottle

How to make a tornado in a bottle? How to do it without going out to buy anything? With stuff that you've already got? I'm glad you asked! Here's how to make a tornado in a bottle, the easy way!

What do I need:

- Two matching empty drinks bottles with 'flip lids' bottles are great for this!
- Blue Tac
- Tape

How do I do it?

STEP 1 - First of all take one of the flip lids and break the piece that flips over off (as shown). You'll only need one lid for this experiment!

STEP 2 - Fill one bottle about three quarters of the way up with water and pop the lid on then cover the top of your lid with the Blue Tac. (as shown)

STEP 3 - Push the other empty bottle down on top of this one and squeeze the Blue Tac round to make a seal. To minimize the leaking you may want to tape this up now!

STEP 4 - Time to make a tornado! Make sure the bottle with the water in is at the top! Keep your tornado tube fairly vertical and swirl the water round in a stirring motion. Imagine string a witches broth! Stir nice and quickly for a few seconds then hold your tube upright and still and let your tornado form!

What's going on?

You've just made a tornado in a bottle - these are sometimes called a vortex or a twister - all the same thing!

This is the same kind of this you see when water goes down the plug hole. The bottom bottle is full of air and so for the water to come down the air is going to have to go up. By getting the water to swirl into a vortex it leaves a gap in the middle for the air to come up and trade places.

More Fun Please - Experiment like a real scientist!

- If you're feeling brave you could add some food colouring to the mix, do this in a kitchen or sink though as some of this will leak!
- Try putting some glitter in, what does that do?
- How will it be different if you add vegetable oil with the water?

