

Soda Spew



What you need:

- Package of Mentos® candies
- Small bowl
- 2L bottle of diet soda
- Sheet of paper
- Tape
- Adult helper



What you do:

Step 1: Roll the sheet of paper into a tube that fits the Mentos® package, and tape it so that it holds its shape.

Step 2: Ask your helper to place the diet soda bottle outside in a safe location for making a mess and to uncup it.

Step 3: Ask your helper to block the bottom of the paper tube. Fill the tube with the Mentos® candies.

Step 4: Position the tube over the mouth of the bottle. Count down with your helper and let the candies fall into the bottle.

Step 5: Remove the tube and move away quickly. What happens?



What's going on:

Dropping Mentos® into the bottle released a lot of gas very quickly and made an incredible soda blast! The diet soda is pumped full of carbon dioxide gas to make it bubbly. The gas stays in the liquid if the bottle is under pressure. Uncapping the bottle releases the pressure and the gas forms bubbles. The “psh” sound you hear when you open the bottle is the gas escaping from the soda. Mentos® candies have a rough textured shell that helps gas bubbles form. The candy dissolves and gets even rougher, which helps bubbles form even faster. The bubbles rise out of the bottle, and carry some of the diet soda with them.

Now try this:

Would you get the same soda spew in different shaped containers? Try it and see!

