

FROSTED GLASS



Materials:

- glass jam jar
- glass bottle or jar
- Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) available from pharmacy
- water
- paint brush

1. Dissolve Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) in a jam jar of hot water until no more will dissolve. The salt solution is called 'saturated' - it is holding as much salt as it possibly can.
2. Brush a small amount of the liquid onto the glass bottle or jar.
3. Leave for 15 minutes or so and the liquid will evaporate. As some of the water evaporates, the water that's left can't hold all the dissolved salt. The Epsom salts re-crystallize and appear as an intricate pattern of needle shaped crystals on the glass surface.
4. When it is dry, paint on another layer and continue until the glass or jar is covered with a film of beautiful needle shaped crystals that resemble ice crystals that form on winter windows.

Epsom salts is a common name for magnesium sulfate heptahydrate, $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, a water-soluble bitter-tasting compound that occurs as white or colorless needle-shaped crystals.

Crystals are a 3-dimensional organized array of atoms or molecules. They form in particular shapes depending on how each face of the crystal develops. Magnesium sulfate is orthorhombic in shape.



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