

Water Lock

Instructions

Materials:

4.0 g Water Lock, sodium polyacrylate

1.0 L of distilled water

Large beaker

Table salt, NaCl

Stirring rod

Demo Procedure:

1. Add 4.0 g of water lock to 1 liter of distilled water in a large beaker.
2. Stir the polymer well with the water.
3. Point out that most of the water is absorbed by the polymer and the beaker is now filled with a “fluffy” gel.
4. Add table salt to the gel and stir again with the stirring rod.
5. The salt releases the water from the polymer and you can tilt the beaker to show the aqueous solution.

Optional: You can use tap water instead of distilled water but the minerals in the tap water may interfere with the polymer's ability to absorb all of the water molecules.