



## Will this clog my sink? And other algae inquiries.



### Will this clog my sink?

It's best to dispose of extra gel and strings in the trash, but any leftover calcium bath can be poured down the drain. It's fine if your bath is cloudy or has small bits of string in it — just strain out any large pieces and be sure to run plenty of water while cleaning used containers.



### Can we eat or drink this?

No. While many of these materials are also common ingredients in molecular gastronomy recipes, no component of the Algae String activity was designed for human consumption. In general, this is a best practice when doing science experiments of any kind!



### As an adult, how can I be most supportive?

Help young scientists identify and gather a wide variety of materials and tools. Then, set them up to explore independently. At the end, ask about their favorite strings and how they were created.



### What if I can't find any calcium chloride?

You can also try food-safe calcium carbonate (antacids) or calcium lactate instead. You'll just need to use 2-3x more when you make your bath, and your strings will take longer to fully solidify.



### Is the calcium bath dangerous?

It's completely safe to handle your strings while they are in the calcium bath, but if you have sensitive skin, we'd recommend washing your hands afterwards to avoid irritation.



### We got a different result than expected! Now what?

Surprises are half the fun! Remember that lots of factors might affect your string, from the chemistry of your water to your particular ingredients. Science is all about trying and learning. Explore why it was different and use that information in your next string experiment!



### Help! My young scientists asked a question I can't answer!

That's okay! A key part of being a scientist is curiosity and asking questions. Highlight that science and understanding the world are ongoing processes and see if you can find the answer together.

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[Algae String](#)  
on The Tech  
Interactive at Home