Make a Silicone Bouncing Polymer Ball

**MATERIALS**

1. Sodium silicate (water glass) solution, 20 mL.

2. Ethyl alcohol, 3 mL.

3. Small paper cup for each solution.

4. Glass stirring rod.

5. Paper towels.

**PROCEDURE**

**SAFETY NOTE:** Wear safety goggles and plastic disposable gloves.

1. Measure 20 mL of sodium silicate solution and pour it into a small paper cup. Avoid contact with your skin.
2. Add food coloring, if desired, to the sodium silicate solution.
3. Add 5 mL of ethyl alcohol to the sodium silicate solution. (Alcohol is flammable. Extinguish all flames in the room.)
4. Using a circular motion, stir with the glassing stirring rod until the substance begins to form a solid.
5. Place the polymer in the palm of your hand and gently press with the palm of the other hand until a spherical ball that no longer crumbles is formed. Be patient. Be careful not to mold it too hard as it will crumble.
6. Moisten the ball occasionally by holding it in a small stream of water from the faucet.
* **Disposal**: If there is any excess of the rubber ball, it must be disposed of in the garbage.

