How to make Salt and Vinegar Crystals

Salt and vinegar crystals are easy-to-grow non-toxic crystals that you can grow in a rainbow of colors. This crystal growing project is especially good for kids or beginners looking for quick and easy crystals.

**Salt & Vinegar Crystal Materials**

* 1 cup hot water ([H2O](http://chemistry.about.com/od/factsstructures/ig/Chemical-Structures---W/Water.htm))
* 1/4 cup salt ([sodium chloride](http://chemistry.about.com/od/factsstructures/ig/Chemical-Structures---S/Sodium-Chloride-Ionic-Crystal.htm))
* 2 teaspoons vinegar (dilute [acetic acid](http://chemistry.about.com/od/factsstructures/ig/Chemical-Structures---A/Acetic-Acid---Ethanoic-Acid.htm))
* food coloring (optional)
* piece of sponge
* shallow dish

**Salt & Vinegar Crystal Instructions**

1. Stir together the water, salt, and vinegar. Boiling water works best, but very hot water is okay.
2. Place the piece of sponge on the shallow dish. Pour the mixture over the sponge so that it soaks up the liquid and just covers the bottom of the dish.
3. If you want colored crystals, you can dot the sponge with food coloring.
4. Save the rest of the crystal growing solution.
5. Set the dish in a sunny window or other warm area with good air circulation. You will see crystal growth overnight or within a day. Add more crystal growing solution to replace the liquid that evaporates.
6. Continue growing your crystals as long as you like. The project is non-toxic so when you are done you can either save your crystals or else throw them away. You can dump leftover crystal solution down the drain and wash the dish as usual.