

Vanishing Ghosts Experiment

adapted from:

<https://theresjustonemommy.com/vanishing-ghosts-halloween-activity-packing-peanuts/>

Materials Needed:

- Biodegradable Packing Peanuts
- Black Permanent Marker
- Small Bowl
- Water

Have your child help make ghosts. Use a black permanent marker to draw a ghost face on each packing peanut. Remember, they **MUST** be biodegradable packing peanuts. (That means they are made of starch, not polystyrene.)



Now it's time to make the ghosts disappear with a bit of science "magic."

- Fill a small bowl with room temperature water.
- Have your child place one ghost on top and watch what happens.

You will start to see small bubbles appearing on the sides of the packing peanut ghost. And then the ghost will disappear right before your eyes! Your results may depend on the type of Biodegradable Packing Peanuts you use. (about 5 – 10 min.)

If the melting packing peanuts are taking too long to disappear, try using hot water to help speed up the process.



...Turn over for more fun.

Why Do Biodegradable Packing Peanuts Melt?

These new packing peanuts are made out of biodegradable corn starch, which means they break down easily instead of just sitting in the garbage dump for years and years like the older style ones. The water helps break them down even faster.

Want to take it a bit further? Ask your child to make a hypothesis about if water temperature will affect the speed they dissolve.

- Have your child use a stopwatch to time how fast the peanuts dissolve in different temperatures of water.
- Make a chart to record your results.