

Salt Painting (Hygroscopic Absorption)

A **hygroscopic** substance is one that readily attracts water from its surroundings, through either absorption or adsorption. **Hygroscopic** substances can absorb both liquid water and vapor in the air.

Some examples include: honey, glycerin, ethanol, methanol, concentrated sulfuric acid, and concentrated sodium hydroxide (lye), and **salt**.

Salt's ability to absorb water is what makes it a good preservative.

You will need:

- Elmer's glue
- Cardstock
- Salt
- food color
- Water
- Pipette

How to make your own salt painting:

1. Create a shape or the letter of your first name by squeezing the glue onto the cardstock.
 2. Shake a generous amount of salt over the glue with a spoon or scoop.
 3. Let the glue and salt mixture dry completely before moving onto the next step.
 4. Mix food color with water in a small bowl.
 5. Take some of the colored water with your pipette and squeeze onto your picture.
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- What happened when you added the colored water?
 - How quickly did the salt absorb the colored water?
 - Do you think it would work with sugar?