

MAKE A HOVERCRAFT!

Have you ever dragged your feet across a room and then gotten a shock when you touched something afterward? Believe it or not, this is a kind of electricity called static electricity. Follow the directions below to use static electricity to make a hovercraft!

MATERIALS:

Bag of balloons, scissors, plastic shopping bags, cotton towel

HOW TO:

1. Blow up a balloon and tie the end.
2. Use a pair of scissors to cut a strip from the open end of the plastic bag to make a ring.
3. Rub your balloon and your plastic ring on the cotton towel for 30 seconds each.
4. Raise your plastic bag above your balloon and let go. The plastic bag is hovering!

WANT MORE?

- Cut other shapes like stars and moons in several plastic bags and make them hover as well.
- Try rubbing your plastic shapes on the cotton towel longer and see how long you can make them hover!

HOW IT WORKS:

Have you ever played with magnets? Did you ever notice that when you hold the two positive sides of a magnet together they push away from each other? Every object is made up of millions of tiny particles that have positive and negative charges just like magnets. When you rub the balloon and the plastic on the cotton towel, it picks up all of the negative charges. All of the positive charges stay on the balloon and the plastic shapes, so they push against each other, which makes it look like the plastic is floating!

