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# Snow Bubble Photography



A Learn Photography Project Guide



# Snow Bubble Photography

Capturing snow bubbles offers a whimsical and creative winter photography experience. As bubbles float, freeze, and burst, they reveal delicate crystal patterns perfect for macro photography. This guide provides all the steps needed to successfully create and photograph frozen bubbles, from preparation to camera settings and post-processing.

## Ideal Weather Conditions

*Bundle up, grab your camera gear, and plan your shots before heading outside! Temperature, wind, and even your bubble solution can all affect how quickly your bubbles freeze, crystallize, or pop on impact—so get ready for some frosty fun!*

- **Optimal temperatures:**  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-12^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This allows bubbles to freeze gradually and form intricate crystal patterns.
- **Avoid extreme cold** (bubbles may shatter) or **warm temperatures** (crystals may not form).
- **Wind-free environment:** Even light breezes can move or destroy bubbles before photographing. Choose a sheltered outdoor location.

A recipe to make your own bubble solution is found on the following page. Experiment with what works best for you!  
Make this a fun project.



# Make Your own Bubbles

## Bubble Solution Recipe

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- ¼ cup Dawn dish soap
- 1¾ tablespoons glycerin (adds durability)
- 1 teaspoon white sugar (promotes crystal formation)



### Step 1.

Pour ingredients into a sealable container.



### Step 2.

Stir gently until fully combined avoiding excess bubbles.

Remove any surface froth.



### Step 3.

Make sure to use a container that is deep enough to insert a bubble blower.

Chill in the freezer.  
DO NOT FREEZE



*When you are ready to take pictures, use a bubble wand to blow your bubbles.*

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## Camera Setting Suggestions

- **Mode:** Aperture Priority (A/AV) or Manual (M)
- **Aperture:** f2.8-f5.6 for a shallow depth of field and blurred background; f8-f11 for more items in focus on and around the bubble
- **Shutter Speed:** 1/250 or faster to freeze motion
- **ISO:** As low as possible to minimize noise
- **Focus:** Manual or single-point autofocus
- **Lens Choice:** Macro or a lens with close-focusing ability



## Lighting Recommendations

- Utilize soft, **diffused light** from overcast skies for (overcast skies) even exposure.
- Take advantage of **low-angle light** during morning or late afternoon to enhance ice crystal textures.
- **Avoid** harsh midday light to prevent glare and blown highlights.
- Use **backlighting** to create dramatic edges and enhance the bubble's transparency.

## Composition Tips

- Shoot at **bubble level** to create a sense of scale and intimacy.
- **Fill the frame** with the bubble to emphasize intricate crystal details.
- Incorporate **leading lines**, such as sticks or snow textures, to guide the viewer's eye toward the bubble.
- Experiment with angles to capture reflections or unique patterns within the bubble.

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## Tips for Success

- **Work with a partner:** one to blow bubbles, one to photograph.
- Use a **dark background** to enhance contrast.
- **Quick reflexes** are required as bubbles can pop or shatter quickly.
- Both cameras and smartphones are suitable for this project.
- Use a **macro lens** or a lens with **close-focusing ability** to capture the intricate details of the frozen bubbles.



## Colour and Contrast

- **Increase contrast** during post-processing to maintain cool winter tones.
- **Adjust white balance** to maintain cool winter tones.
- **Crop closely** for macro effect and visual impact.



## Creative Elements

- Incorporate **natural elements** like snow, branches, or leaves to add context and visual interest.
- **Play with reflections** in the bubble to add a unique perspective.

Issue	Possible Cause	Solution
Bubbles pop instantly	Temperature too warm; solution too thin; wind	Chill mixture; use more glycerine; find sheltered location
Bubbles shatter	Temperature too cold	Slightly warmer day or remove mixture from freezer briefly before using
No crystal patterns	Solution not chilled; temperatures too mild	Chill mixture; choose colder day
Blurry photos	Slow shutter; camera movement	Increase shutter speed; stabilize camera or use tripod

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## Key Takeaways

- Bubbles are an artistic and rewarding winter photography subject.
- Success depends on preparation, weather and quick reflexes.
- Creative composition, lighting, and technical settings will enhance beautiful frozen patterns.
- Suitable for photographers of all levels with a few simple tools.

## Safety Notes

- Wear gloves and proper outdoor clothing for the elements.
- Avoid touching metal camera parts with bare hands.
- Take indoor breaks when needed.
- Watch footing carefully on ice and snow.



***Snow bubbles are visually captivating! I hope you enjoy this photography project and have a great time playing in the snow. For more great projects and to learn more about photography visit [pattypresents.com](http://pattypresents.com).***