

Indicators at home

In this experiment you will be looking to see if there are any things that you can find around your home that could be used as indicators.

An indicator will:

- be coloured
- change colour when mixed with acid or alkali.

Here are some suggestions.

blackcurrant or blackberry juices	
cold tea	
beetroot juice	
crushed berries	
food colourings	

Put a tick by the things that you have in your home that you could try.

You will need an acid to test your indicator – choose from vinegar or lemon juice.

I will use _____ as my acid.

You will also need an alkali – you might use bicarbonate of soda, or toothpaste.

I will use _____ as my alkali.

Method

- 1 Write in the name of the coloured substance that you are going to test in the table.
- 2 Write down its normal colour.
- 3 Mix a little of your substance with the acid. Write the colour in the table.
- 4 Now mix the indicator with the alkali. Write down the colour.
- 5 In the last column of the table, say whether you think the substance that you've chosen is a good indicator.
- 6 Repeat the test with other substances.

Substance	Natural colour	Colour in acid	Colour in alkali	Is it a good indicator?