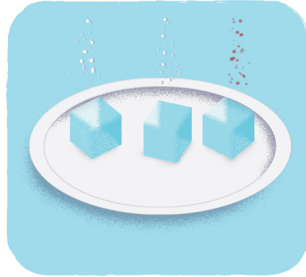


Melting ice

Try these experiments to learn about how ice melts.

42 Melting race

Place three ice cubes on a plate. Sprinkle one with sugar, one with salt and one with pepper. Which melts the fastest?



The temperature at which ice changes to water is called its melting point. (This is also the temperature at which water changes into ice, when it is called its freezing point.) Adding things to ice can lower the melting point. Salt lowers it the most, so the salty ice cube should melt the fastest. Pepper lowers it the least, so the peppery cube should melt the slowest.

The melting point of ice is 0°C (32°F). When ice reaches this temperature it changes to water.

43 See how it works

1. Fill a plastic box with water and leave it in the freezer overnight.



2. Tip the ice onto a big tray and sprinkle a thin layer of salt over the top.



You may have to wait for the ice to melt a little to get it out of the box.

3. Add some drops of ink on top. What happens to the ink?



You could use food dye instead of ink.

Salt lowers the melting point. The ice that the salt touches melts faster than the rest of the ice, creating cracks and rivulets. The ink flows into the gaps and helps you see what's happening.

