

Water Gels

Water gels are a fairly recent addition to the useful props toolkit. They can be acquired at garden centres or online and come in a range of colours, though the translucent variety are more beautiful than the opaque so be careful when ordering. These gels, when presented in large quantities, provide a visual, tactile stimulus that many participants greatly enjoy. Immersing fingers and toes is almost therapeutic, like massage, and people will spend extended periods of time gently enjoying the feel of them.

Different ways of using water gels:

- As a simple tactile experience. Gels are slightly wet to the touch, but soft and jelly-like, without being sticky. Rolling them around in bowls with hands and feet is an extremely pleasant, relaxing experience.
- Adding small lights to a clear or silver bowl of gels gives an additional visual stimulus as they shimmer and shine and reflect the light back as they move around.
- Rolling gels this way and that across large flat trays or soundboards enables exploration of their movement qualities. When dropped individually they bounce like raindrops.
- Rolling down tubes or half-pipes adds an element of fun and surprise to the activity. You never know where they're going to end up, so it is wise to have a trug or other container strategically placed at the end!
- Specifically coloured gels can reinforce a particular theme, offering an alternative colour element to the activity, for example green in the Emerald City or blue for a pool or river.
- Gels can be used symbolically; the clear ones behave and look exactly like raindrops, or perhaps as green and purple grapes in a wine-making workshop.

Links

Balls (Prop)

Weather (Activities)

Workshops - Marchand de Vin, Proserpine, Oz 3 -Emerald City

Videos

We're all picking grapes

Water gels and lights

Water gels in the lab