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# Nitrogen Triiodide

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## Method #1:

This is a very powerful and shock sensitive explosive. Never store it and be careful for air movements, and other tiny things could set it off.

## Materials:

2-3g Iodine  
15ml Conc. Ammonia  
8 Sheets of filter paper  
50ml Beaker  
Feather on a 10ft pole  
Ear plugs  
Tape  
Spatula  
Stirring rod

Add iodine to ammonia in the beaker. Stir, let stand for 5 minutes. Do the following within 5 minutes!! Retain the solid, and pour off the liquid. Scrape the brown solid onto a stack of four sheets of filter paper. Divide solid into four parts, putting each on a sheet of dry filter paper. Tape in position. Leave to dry undisturbed for at least 30 minutes. To detonate, touch with the feather. Wear the ear plugs while doing this...it is very loud!

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## **Method #2:**

### **AMMONIUM TRIIODIDE CRYSTALS**

Ammonium triiodide crystals are foul-smelling purple colored crystals that decompose under the slightest amount of heat, friction, or shock, if they are made with the purest ammonia (ammonium hydroxide) and iodine. Such crystals are said to detonate when a fly lands on them, or when an ant walks across them. Household ammonia, however, has enough impurities, such as soaps and abrasive agents, so that the crystals will detonate when thrown, crushed, or heated. Upon detonation, a loud report is heard, and a cloud of purple iodine gas appears about the detonation site. Whatever the unfortunate surface that the crystal was detonated upon will usually be ruined, as some of the iodine in the crystal is thrown about in a solid form, and iodine is corrosive. It leaves nasty, ugly, permanent brownish-purple stains on whatever it contacts. Iodine gas is also bad news, since it can damage lungs, and it settles to the ground and stains things there also. Touching iodine leaves brown stains on the skin that last for about a week, unless they are immediately and vigorously washed off. While such a compound would have little use to a serious terrorist, a vandal could utilize them in damaging property. Or, a terrorist could throw several of them into a crowd as a distraction, an action which would possibly injure a few people, but frighten almost anyone, since a small crystal that not be seen when thrown produces a rather loud explosion.

Ammonium triiodide crystals could be produced in the following manner:

### **Materials**

- iodine crystals
- clear ammonia (ammonium hydroxide, for the suicidal)
- funnel and filter paper paper towels
- two throw-away glass jars

### **Procedure:**

1. Place about two teaspoons of iodine into one of the glass jars. The jars must both be throw away because they will never be clean again.
2. Add enough ammonia to completely cover the iodine.
3. Place the funnel into the other jar, and put the filter paper in the funnel. The technique for putting filter paper in a funnel is taught in every basic chemistry lab class: fold the circular paper in half, so that a semi-circle is formed. Then, fold it in half again to form a triangle with one curved side. Pull one thickness of paper out to form a cone, and place the cone into the funnel.
4. After allowing the iodine to soak in the ammonia for a while, pour the solution into the paper in the funnel through the filter paper.
5. While the solution is being filtered, put more ammonia into the first jar to wash any remaining crystals into the funnel as soon as it drains.
6. Collect all the purplish crystals without touching the brown filter paper, and place them on the paper towels

to dry for about an hour. Make sure that they are not too close to any lights or other sources of heat, as they could well detonate. While they are still wet, divide the wet material into about eight chunks.

7. After they dry, gently place the crystals onto a one square inch piece of duct tape. Cover it with a similar piece, and gently press the duct tape together around the crystal, making sure not to press the crystal itself. Finally, cut away most of the excess duct tape with a pair of scissors, and store the crystals in a cool dry safe place. They have a shelf life of about a week, and they should be stored in individual containers that can be thrown away, since they have a tendency to slowly decompose, a process which gives off iodine vapors, which will stain whatever they settle on. One possible way to increase their shelf life is to store them in airtight containers. To use them, simply throw them against any surface or place them where they will be stepped on or crushed.

And please **BE VERY CAREFUL** and **USE COMMON SENSE!!**