

TrendSetter

New Fad NeeDoh Fuels Dangerous Internet Challenge

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Imagine this: you are 10-years old, and your art teacher or summer camp counselor takes out a bottle of glue and shaving cream — you instantly know what you are about to make.

The DIY slime craze may have died many years back (with occasional in and out phases), but a very similar item has recently become extremely popular: NeeDoh.

NeeDoh is best described as a dough-filled thermoplastic rubber sensory toy — think stress ball meets clay-like butter slime. Many of them are shaped like foods or objects, being somewhat translucent. Some of the most popular NeeDoh toys are the “Nice Cube” and “Gummy Bear,” which of course come in a series of different colors.

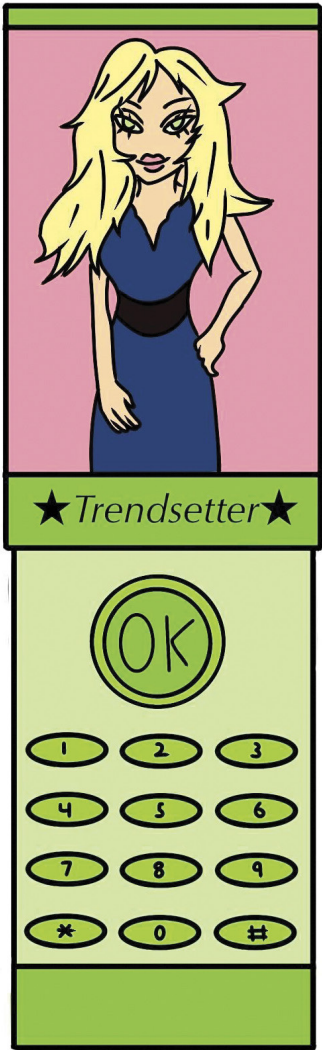
Fidget toys became extremely popular after the onset of slime-making and the comeback of the fidget spinner in 2016-2017, with the rise of the “squishy” shortly after. It is safe to say that NeeDoh is another fad of the 2016 revival.

People are even cutting their NeeDoh toys open to make putty, and while labeled as non-toxic, this is not recommended. Unfortunately, there are more similarities to the slime craze than maybe originally thought.

Flashing back to the 2010s, slime was often made with the chemical borax, which posed many problems for children. Along with being a skin irritant, in the worst cases causing chemical burns on skin and eyes, if borax is ingested by children it can result in severe vomiting, diarrhea, shock and even death, according to an ar-

ticle updated by Healthline in 2023.

Cutting open NeeDoh can result in similar skin irritation,



LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

but a more dangerous trend has emerged in which children are microwaving their toys to make them more squishy or pliable.

Caleb Chabolla, a 9-year-old from Plainfield, Ill., experienced second-degree burns

on his face and hands after he microwaved his NeeDoh, according to an article updated by CBS News on Feb. 2.

Loyola Medicine, the hospital Chabolla was treated at, said four other patients were treated for burns from NeeDoh, according to CBS.

Schylling, the company that produces NeeDoh, has since issued a warning against microwaving, heating or freezing their toys.

According to CBS, a TikTok USDS Joint Venture spokesperson said the app redirects users looking for dangerous challenges to their SafetyCenter, and that videos promoting danger violate the app's guidelines and are removed by the platform when found. However, kids still came across the challenge.

This is not the first time a dangerous challenge has spread over social media, however. A less positive moment from the late 2010s, but a defining incident nonetheless was the “Tide Pod Challenge.” Children and teens on various social media platforms were eating the laundry detergent-filled pods, and suffering severe health complications, often resulting in hospitalizations. Ingesting Tide Pods can also notably cause death.

While fads and trends can be intriguing to children, they can also be extremely dangerous if blindly followed. NeeDoh is just one example of a DIY project or challenge ending horribly wrong. However, if you still want a “Nice Cube” after reading this, I wish you luck trying to get your hands on one and remind you to be safe!



Spring Cleaning Your Wardrobe:

How to Dress for the Spring Weather

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Heavy rain, midterms and 60-degree weather on the horizon — spring is in the air!

Winter in Storrs has been nothing short of cruel, with snowstorms every other weekend and dirty slush and salt covering our shoes. It also seems to plan to stick around, with snow on the forecast and temperatures still firmly rooted in the low 40s. But after months of thick puffer jackets, fuzzy hats and snow boots, there's some relief in our near future.

Spring is arriving fashionably late this year, so you should arrive fashionable, too. Here's how.

Dress in layers

Layers are both fashionable and practical. The weather in spring is unpredictable, ranging from high 30s to low 70s all in one day, so you'll want to be prepared for anything, especially if you can't stop by your dorm to change between classes. You might feel sick of layering by now — after all, those bulky puffers might have you feeling like a snowman — but spring (no pun intended) for light layers and you'll be fine.

Mix and match your basics

There are a few spring staples you absolutely can't go without. First, of course, is the tank top. You can layer these under pretty much anything for some invisible warmth, or even over a t-shirt for that classic Y2K style. Next is the plain crewneck; while not as flexible as the tank top, it provides a nice base for the outfit, especially with a white shirt peeking out under the collar (layers!).

And you should always have at least one zip-up hoodie. Ready to serve at every

temperature, the zip-up is an easy piece to incorporate into an otherwise plain outfit, and zipping it up at different lengths can change your entire appearance.

The most crucial staple I would have to recommend, though, is the timeless flannel button-up. You can pair it with almost anything and

a statement. As for shoes, Converse and any tennis shoe have a good spring vibe.

Find your aesthetic — or let the trends find it for you

Maybe jeans and a boxy tee aren't your style — understandable! Spring allows for versatility and encourages all sorts of aesthetics. If you

pricey. A budget-friendly alternative is a bomber jacket or jean jacket; they're lightweight, easy to store away on the go and simple to style. If you're particularly stylish, the trenchcoat is a unique and fun choice for a final layer. Don't forget a raincoat!

Also in revival is the 90s and early 2000s t-shirt-over-long-

terns. Spring is a very bright and airy season, so opt for pastels and generally light colors. Light-wash jeans are a good pick for any outfit, especially if you're planning to wear a darker top. If you're into the earthy tones, go for lighter greens and tans. If you're more into darks, try out navy or forest green.

Patterns can be tricky to style, which is why I recommend having a lot of plain pieces to layer. However, there is one pattern that always works in spring: gingham. Whether it's a gingham button-up or gingham dress, it'll always look great in springtime — probably because of the association with picnics.

Stripes usually work well, too. Here's a tip on striped pieces: look at how close the lines are to one another. The closer the lines, the harder it'll be to style — but inversely, if the lines are too far apart, you'll just look like a grid. Find a nice middle ground for optimal styling. Polka dots, although very susceptible to becoming “tacky,” are also a fun option for a blouse or sundress. If you're truly daring, you can tackle the floral pattern and get quirky with your tops (or bottoms!).

Don't be afraid to reinvent yourself

Spring is all about new beginnings, so give yourself the grace to explore a new beginning for your style, too. If you're worried about whether a piece works for you or if an outfit is too “out there,” phone a friend or just... give it a try. If something makes you happy to wear, there's no reason you shouldn't wear it.

Don't fear getting creative! The good thing about an outfit is that you can always change out of it and you never have to wear anything that was part of it again. Spring for the stars!

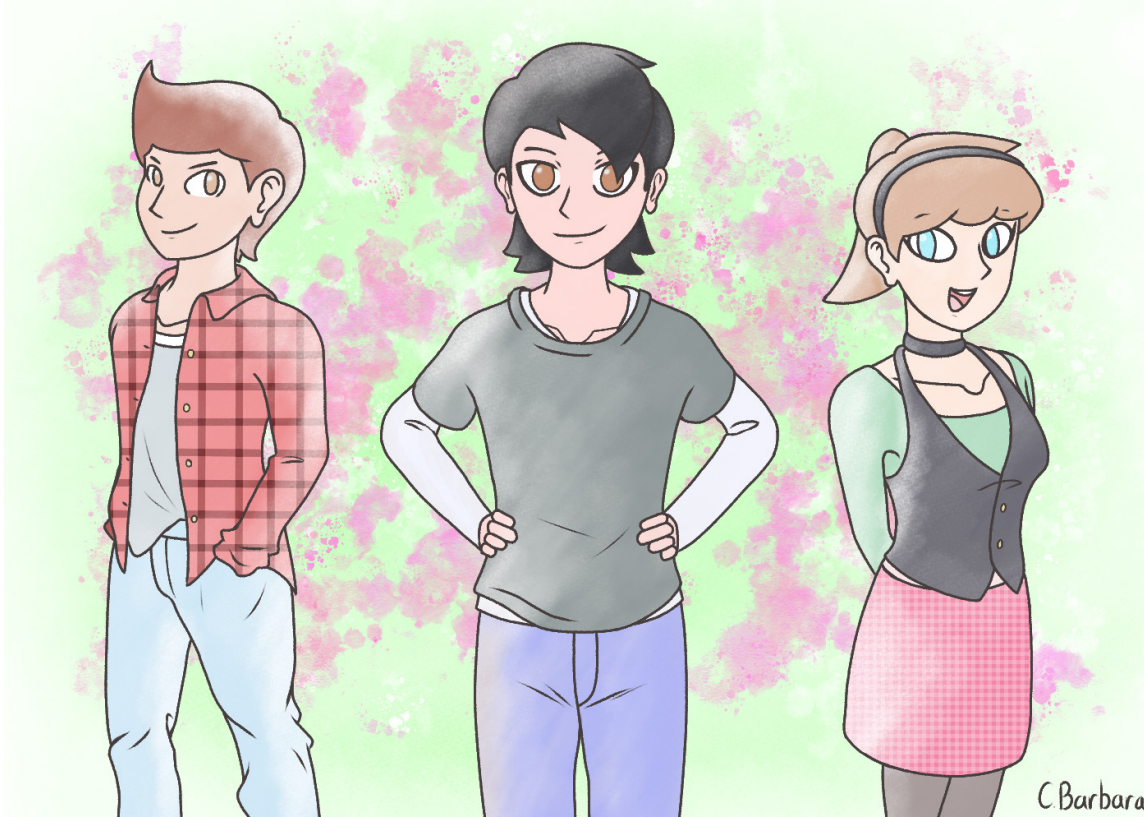


ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

wear it over, under or around the waist. Lately, short-sleeve button-ups worn over waffle-knit long-sleeves have been making a comeback — a classic combo perfect for the mid-range temperatures of spring!

You can't forget about pants and shoes, either. Jeans are trending and for good reason; some linen trousers or leggings are more comfortable options that will still elevate your outfit. When it gets warmer, try out some long jorts — which, I know, can be hit or miss, but it doesn't hurt to try, and they always make

like flowy, frilly pieces, it's time to break out your skirts and blouses; if you like more earthy, vintage pieces, pick up some corduroy pants and a grandpa sweater. The cottagecore aesthetic is in season! If you're more into the “clean” aesthetic, go for a nice polo or some linen pieces that'll give you breathability on the hotter days.

We've all seen the Carhartt jacket trend floating around and rest assured it's still in style. But as we all have learned from scouring Depop, Carhartts are rare and

sleeve combo. Any kind of tee (plain, patterned or graphic) over a long-sleeve is the perfect match to thrust your style into the stratosphere. The key to making it look like skateboarder streetwear instead of, say, Sheldon Cooper's wardrobe, is to keep the long-sleeve a muted neutral tone or at least make sure the colors are complementary. Clashing a royal blue long-sleeve with an emerald green graphic tee won't do you any favors.

Coordination is key

Now that we're on the subject, let's talk colors and pat-