

The Magic of Insta-Snow®

Performance Ideas to Amaze • Compiled by Bob LaRue and Steve Spangler

Zip up your winter parka and slip on the ear muffs! Make sure you know how to rub two sticks together! It is about to snow in your living room and on your stage!

As a rule of thumb use 1 teaspoon of powder to 2 ounces of water, or 1 tablespoon to 6 ounces of water to make a perfect batch of snow. Try out some of these routine ideas!

1. Color-Changing Snow! Kool-Aid works great as a dry coloring agent for use with Insta-Snow. By using a dry coloring agent, the water can stay clear... so that when the colored snow begins to expand, the color will be a surprise. Put about 1/8 of a teaspoon of Kool-Aid in with about 1 tablespoon of Insta-Snow in a container. Add 6 ounces of water to get colored snow! The small amount of coloring means that even with a clear glass, the color will go unnoticed until the water hits the powder. A row of small glasses with different colors in each becomes a very easy, magical, safe water-to-colored-snow ending to a routine. Line up the glasses. Produce a rainbow streamer. Wave it over the glasses, pour in the water and stand back!

2. Patriotic Snow! Line up three small clear glasses. In the first one put 1/8 of a teaspoon of Cherry Kool-Aid along with a tablespoon of Insta-Snow. Just put Insta-Snow in the center glass. Blueberry Kool-Aid goes in the third glass with the Insta-Snow. Pour in the water and out comes Patriotic Snow!

3. Using other liquids. Room temperature water works best with Insta-Snow. It will not work with alcoholic beverages. Milk will produce a rather thick, yellowish snow that does not really flake.

4. Chen Lee Water Suspension. Insta-Snow provides a great climax-pseudo explanation for the classic Chen Lee Water Suspension. Perform the trick as advertised... pouring water into a tube without it coming out the bottom. Push a drinking glass through the tube to "recapture" the water. Explain that the water did not fall through the tube because it was temporarily vaporized. The glass caused it to be *recondensed*. Show that you can go even one step farther... and crystallize the water into snowflakes! Slip the Chen Lee tube over your arm. Pick up a second glass that contains the Insta-Snow. Pour the water from the first glass into the second and immediately slide the Chen Lee tube up over and off the glass... apparently causing the water to change to snow as the tube passes over it!

5. In the News! Prepare the classic In The News trick where water is poured into a folded newspaper, only to vanish, then reappear when the paper is refolded and used to pour the water back out. Into the dry gimmick place one tablespoon of Insta-Snow. An additional kicker is possible if you print up some fake headlines to be glued on the front of your local newspaper. "Blizzard Closes Airport" or "Snowstorm Overwhelms Theatre" Show the paper, concentrating on the inner and back pages. Fold. Pour water in the gimmick, activating the Insta-Snow. Show that the water has vanished by opening out the paper. Show the front page headline, refold the paper and pour out the snow!

6. Candy Factory. Load your Candy Factory trick with white mints in the secret chamber and put the insert in the real glass. Pour a tablespoon of Insta-Snow in the gimmick where the sugar would normally go. Set the loaded glass on the table and drop

the metal tube over it. Show a glass of water and pour it into the tube on the table. Immediately lift the tube to show that the water went into the glass... but that it is also changing into snowflakes! Let the snow grow and spill over the top of the glass. Show the tube empty and drop it back over the glass, make a magic pass, then remove the tube, stealing away the gimmick.... to reveal that the snow has changed to mints.

7. Snow Cone. Cover one side of a colorful sheet of lightweight cardstock with clear plastic laminating film. Find a large size thumbtip and put a tablespoon of Insta-Snow in it. Stand the thumbtip upright in your case by putting it in an empty film canister glued or Velcroed in place. Next to the thumbtip, have a small container of confetti. Pre-roll the cardstock into a cone and hold it in this shape long enough so that it will roll into the cone shape easily. In performance, show the cardstock and roll it into a cone. Reach into the case and steal the thumbtip while getting a pinch of confetti. Sprinkle the confetti into the cone as you simply push the thumbtip into the point of the cone. Leave it behind as you reach for a glass of water. Pour in the water, shaking the cone a little to keep the flakes loose. Pinch the thumbtip tightly inside the cone as you tip it forward to pour out the snow! A contrasting color Kool-Aid might be pretty and fit with the Snow Cone theme.

8. In your case have a small clear glass of water and a matching glass loaded with a tablespoon of Insta-Snow powder. During your show, use as a running element a line about how hot it is. Keep going to your case and bringing out the glass of water, from which you sip. Finally, go into the case and quickly pour the water into the other glass. Immediately bring out the snowflake glass and concentrate on it... saying you will make sure the water is cold enough... and then open up your fingers to show the growing snowflakes. Shake the glass as you tip it forward to allow the flakes to fly away.

9. Snowstorm in China. For a different approach to this classic, put a tablespoon of Insta-Snow in the bottom of a short clear glass. Dig out a couple of those plastic joke ice cubes you bought years ago. Also find a folding fan. Put a piece of sponge in the tip of an extra large thumbtip. Slip one plastic ice cube into the thumbtip, making sure it fits loosely. Put a second ice cube behind something on your table. Have a glass of water handy. Show your hands briefly empty, without making a big production out of it... after all, you do have the oversized thumbtip stuck on the end of one thumb! Leave the tip in the fist of one hand. Pick up the glass of water and pour just a couple drops of water into your fist... actually let more drip on the outside than goes into the fist... but still, just a little. The sponge will absorb the water. Tip the fist over to dump the ice cube into the *empty* glass on the table. As the right hand replaces the glass of water on the table it steals the second ice cube. To produce this cube, just make a grabbing motion in the air and produce the cube. Show it, then drop it in the glass with the first cube. Pour about 6 ounces of water into the glass now... and watch the water all freeze into snow... which you spread around by fanning with the now open and wildly waving fan! Shake the glass a little and tip it forward as you fan to easily sweep the snow into the wake of the fan.

10. Almost any routine that uses water can be ended with changing the water to snow. No particular finesse is needed here. Simply pour the water into a second glass, containing the Insta-Snow. Use magician's logic to *prove* that is why the trick worked.

11. Change Bag Snow to Candy. Using an inexpensive cloth change bag you can easily make this up. *Scotch Guard* the inside of the bag. While the snow is not wet to the touch, this will help preserve your bag. Load the secret compartment with candy. Bring up the birthday child to help you. Turn the bag inside out to show that it is empty and have the child hold it. Change some water into snow by your favorite method... we suggest that you use Insta-Snow! Have the child hold the bag open so you can dump the snow into the bag... so they can keep it forever! Wait, snow won't keep very long at all... so let's change it into... candy! Pour the candy out into their cupped hands, to be shared with the guests.

12. Longer routines can be created using gelling powder in one container, and Insta-Snow in another. The combination provides two very different results, with the same apparent starting materials!