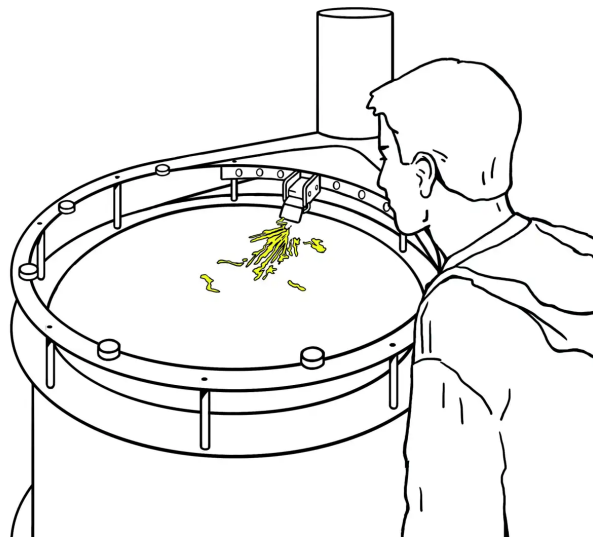


Icy bodies

Shawn Lani

What happens to dry ice in water?



Observe the dry ice shards falling into the water. What is happening to them?

The ice is frozen carbon dioxide (CO₂) at a temperature of about -80°C. In contact with the warm water the ice sublimates large amounts of gas. Thereby the gas is being emitted like a jet stream. It propels the ice in unexpected directions. The resulting patterns are mesmerizing and unique to each cycle.

The gaseous carbon dioxide is still very cold. Therefore the water vapour condensates and can be seen as mist.