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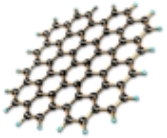
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Graphene Can Be Molded with Water

The carbon-compound graphene is perhaps one of the most promising materials in [the world today](#). Discovered only in 2004, it has already proven its worth many times over, and is recognized as having some of the most bizarre physical and chemical traits encountered in an easily mass-producible material. But one of the main difficulties that experts encountered in working with it was their inability to find ways of molding the carbon compound into various shapes and sizes. This obstacle has recently been surpassed, with chemists at the [University of Illinois in Chicago](#)



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(UIC) creating a new method of custom-molding graphene.

The method relies on nothing more than water droplets to get the job done, the team reports. "Up until now, it wasn't thought we could controllably fold these structures. But now we know how to shape graphene by using weak forces between nanodroplets carefully positioned on graphene sheets," UIC Assistant Professor of Chemistry Petr Kral explains. He reveals that a single nanodroplet of water has the ability to open up an entirely new class of structures that are now possible.

At this point, engineers are capable of cutting graphene into nanoribbons using advanced, nanoscale cutting methods, but they are unable to fold it to custom specifications. Using an advanced computer [model](#), scien... (read more)

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