

Recipes for: Homemade Paint, Playdough, Clay, Bubble Solution, and Silly Putty

Homemade Paint Recipes

Flour-Based Poster Paint

Materials

- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- Small jars or plastic containers
- 3 tablespoons powdered tempera paint per container
- 2 tablespoons water per container
- 1/2 teaspoon liquid starch or liquid detergent per container (optional)

Directions

1. Measure flour into saucepan.
2. Slowly add 1 cup water while stirring to make a smooth paste.
3. Heat, stirring constantly, until paste begins to thicken.
4. Cool.
5. Measure 1/4 cup paste into each small container.
6. Add 3 tablespoons powdered tempera paint and 2 tablespoons water to each container.
7. For a matte finish, add liquid starch. For a glossy finish, add liquid detergent.
8. Store covered.

Cornstarch Paint

Materials

- Medium saucepan
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup cold water
- 4 cups boiling water
- Small jars or plastic containers
- Tempera paint, dry or liquid

Directions

1. Measure cornstarch into saucepan.
2. Add cold water to cornstarch and stir to make a smooth paste.
3. Stir in boiling water.
4. Place saucepan over medium-low heat and stir until boiling.
5. Boil 1 minute; remove from heat. Cool.
6. Spoon about 1/2 cup of thickened cornstarch mixture into each container, using a different cup for each color.
7. For each color, stir 1 teaspoon dry tempera or 1 tablespoon liquid tempera into cornstarch mixture. (Use more paint for more intense color.)

8. If paint is too thick, stir in 1 teaspoon water at a time until desired consistency is achieved.
9. Store in refrigerator. This recipe makes about 4 cups of paint.

Detergent Poster Paint

Materials

- Small jars or plastic containers
- 1 tablespoon clear liquid detergent per container
- 2 teaspoons powdered tempera paint per container

Directions

1. In each small container, mix together 1 tablespoon liquid detergent and 2 teaspoons powdered tempera paint.
2. This recipe makes enough for one painting session.

Condensed-Milk Paint

Materials

- Bowl
- 1 cup condensed milk
- Food coloring

Directions

1. In bowl, mix 1 cup condensed milk with many drops of food coloring to make a very bright, glossy paint.
2. This paint is not intended to be eaten, but it won't harm a child who decides to make a snack of it.
3. Store covered in refrigerator.

Homemade Face Paint

Materials

- Small jars or plastic containers
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch per container
- 1/2 teaspoon cold cream per container
- 1/2 teaspoon water per container
- Food coloring

Directions

1. In each small container, mix cornstarch and cold cream until well blended.
2. Add water and stir.
3. Add food coloring one drop at a time until you get the desired color.
4. Paint small designs on face with a small paintbrush; remove with soap and water.
5. Store covered.

Halloween Face Paint

Materials

- Bowl
- 1 tablespoon solid shortening
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- Food coloring
- Water (optional)
- Small jar or plastic container

Directions

1. In bowl, mix shortening and cornstarch until smooth.
2. Add food coloring one drop at a time until you get the desired color.
3. Use a sponge or fingers to apply paint to a large area, such as an entire face.
4. To apply with a small brush, thin paint with a little water first.
5. Remove with soap and water.
6. Store covered.

Edible Egg-Yolk Paint

Materials

- Small jars or plastic containers
- 1 egg yolk per container
- 1/4 teaspoon water per container
- Food coloring

Directions

1. In each small container, mix one egg yolk with 1/4 teaspoon water and many drops of food coloring.
2. Use a paintbrush to apply paint to freshly baked cookies; return cookies to oven until paint hardens.

Cornstarch Fingerpaint

Materials

- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- Medium saucepan
- 2 cups cold water
- Muffin tin or small cups
- Food coloring
- Soap flakes or liquid dishwashing detergent

Directions

1. Mix sugar and cornstarch in saucepan.
2. Turn heat on low, add cold water, and stir until mixture is thick.
3. Remove from heat.

4. Divide mixture into four or five portions, spooning into muffintin sections or small cups.
5. Add a few drops of food coloring and a pinch of soap flakes or a drop of liquid dishwashing detergent to each portion.
6. Stir and let cool before use.
7. Store covered.

Flour Fingerpaint

Materials

- 1 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons salt
- Saucepan
- 1 1/2 cups cold water
- Wire whisk or eggbeater
- 1 1/4 cups hot water
- Food coloring or tempera paint

Directions

1. Put flour and salt in saucepan.
2. Add cold water and beat with whisk or eggbeater until smooth.
3. Add hot water and boil until mixture is thick.
4. Beat again until smooth.
5. Color as desired with food coloring or powdered tempera paint.
6. Store covered in refrigerator.

Homemade Playdough Recipes

Everyone seems to have a favorite playdough recipe, and many old favorites have been included here. Some require cooking and some don't; some are meant to be eaten and some are not. Choose the recipe that best suits your needs and the ingredients you have on hand. Store playdough in a covered container or Ziploc bag. If it sweats a little, just add more flour. For sensory variety, use playdough warm or cool as well as at room temperature.

Oatmeal Playdough

Materials

- 1 part flour
- 1 part water
- 2 parts oatmeal
- Bowl

Directions

1. Combine all ingredients in a bowl; mix well and knead until smooth.
2. This playdough is not intended to be eaten, but it will not hurt a child who decides to taste it.
3. Store covered in refrigerator.

4. Your child can make this playdough without help; however, it doesn't last as long as cooked playdough.

Uncooked Playdough

Materials

- Bowl
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 cup salt
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- Tempera paint or food coloring
- 3 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch

Directions

1. In bowl, mix water, salt, oil, and enough tempera paint or food coloring to make a bright color.
2. Gradually add flour and cornstarch until the mixture reaches the consistency of bread dough.
3. Store covered.

Peanut Butter Playdough

Materials

- 2 cups peanut butter
- 6 tablespoons honey
- Nonfat dry milk or milk plus flour
- Cocoa or carob for chocolate flavor (optional)
- Edible treats for decoration

Directions

1. Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix, adding enough dry milk or milk plus flour to reach the consistency of bread dough.
2. Add cocoa or carob, if desired.
3. Shape, decorate with edible treats, and eat!

Salt Playdough

Materials

- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup flour plus additional flour
- Saucepan

Directions

1. Mix salt, water, and flour in saucepan and cook over medium heat.
2. Remove from heat when mixture is thick and rubbery.

3. As the mixture cools, knead in enough flour to make the dough workable.

Colored Playdough

Materials

- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- Food coloring
- Saucepan
- 1 cup flour

Directions

1. Combine water, oil, salt, cream of tartar, and food coloring in a saucepan and heat until warm.
2. Remove from heat and add flour.
3. Stir, then knead until smooth. The cream of tartar makes this dough last 6 months or longer, so resist the temptation to omit this ingredient if you don't have it on hand.
4. Store this dough in an airtight container or a Ziploc freezer bag.

Kool-Aid Playdough

Materials

- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 cups water
- Saucepan
- Food coloring, tempera powder, or Kool-Aid powder for color
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 2 tablespoons alum

Directions

1. Combine salt and water in saucepan and boil until salt dissolves.
2. Remove from heat and tint with food coloring, tempera powder, or Kool-Aid.
3. Add oil, flour, and alum.
4. Knead until smooth.
5. This dough will last 2 months or longer.

Homemade Clay Recipes

Use the following recipes to make clay that can be rolled or shaped into sculptures. Some clays should be dried overnight, while others are best baked in an oven. When hard, sculptures can be decorated and preserved with acrylic paint or finish.

Modeling Clay

Materials

- 2 cups salt
- 2/3 cups water
- Saucepan
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup cold water

Directions

1. Stir salt and water in a saucepan over heat 4-5 minutes.
2. Remove from heat; add cornstarch and cold water.
3. Stir until smooth; return to heat and cook until thick.
4. Allow the clay to cool, then shape as desired.
5. When dry, decorate with paint, markers, glitter, and so on.
6. If you like, finish with clear acrylic spray or clear nail polish.
7. Store unused clay in a Ziploc bag.

Bread Clay

Materials

- 6 slices white bread, crusts removed
- 6 tablespoons white glue
- 1/2 teaspoon detergent or 2 teaspoons glycerine
- Food coloring
- Paintbrush
- Equal parts white glue and water
- Acrylic paint or spray or clear nail polish

Directions

1. Knead bread with glue plus detergent or glycerine until the mixture is no longer sticky.
2. Separate into portions and tint with food coloring.
3. Let your child shape the clay.
4. Brush the sculpture with equal parts glue and water for a smooth appearance.
5. Let dry overnight.
6. Use acrylic paints or spray or clear nail polish to seal and preserve.

Baker's Clay

Materials

- 4 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 teaspoon alum
- 1 1/2 cups water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Large bowl
- Cookie cutters, drinking straw, and fine wire (optional)

- Baking sheet
- Fine sandpaper
- Plastic-based poster paint, acrylic paint, or markers
- Clear shellac, acrylic spray, or nail polish

Directions

1. Mix flour, salt, alum, and water in bowl. If dough is too dry, knead in another tablespoon of water.
2. Dough can be colored by dividing it into several parts and kneading a few drops of food coloring into each part.
3. Roll or mold into ornaments.
 - To roll: Roll dough 1/8 inch thick on a lightly floured surface. Cut with cookie cutters dipped in flour. Make a hole for hanging by dipping the end of a drinking straw in flour and using the straw to cut a tiny circle 1/4 inch from the ornament's edge. You can also use the straw to cut more clay dots for use as decorations.
 - To mold: Shape dough into figures such as flowers, fruits, animals, and so on. The figures should be no more than 1/2 inch thick.
4. Insert fine wire in ornaments for hanging.
5. Bake ornaments on an ungreased baking sheet for about 30 minutes at 250°F.
6. Turn and bake another 90 minutes until hard and dry.
7. Remove from oven and cool, then smooth with fine sandpaper.
8. Decorate both sides of ornaments with plastic-based poster paint, acrylic paint, or markers.
9. Let dry and seal with clear shellac, acrylic spray, or nail polish. Makes about five dozen 2 1/2-inch ornaments.

No-Bake Craft Clay

Materials

- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 1/4 cups cold water
- 2 cups baking soda (1 pound)
- Saucepan
- Food coloring (optional)
- Plate
- Damp cloth
- Tempera or acrylic paints (optional)
- Clear shellac, acrylic spray, or nail polish

Directions

1. Combine cornstarch, water, and baking soda in saucepan; stir over medium heat for about 4 minutes until mixture thickens to a moist mashed-potato consistency. (For colored clay, add a few drops of food coloring to the water before it is mixed with cornstarch and baking soda.)
2. Remove from heat, turn onto plate, and cover with a damp cloth until cool.
3. Knead until smooth.
4. Shape as desired or store in an airtight container or Ziploc bag.
5. Dry sculptures overnight, then paint with tempera or acrylic.
6. Seal with shellac, acrylic spray, or nail polish.

No-Bake Cookie Clay

Materials

- 2 cups salt
- 2/3 cup water
- Medium saucepan
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup cold water
- Rolling pin
- Cookie cutters
- Drinking straw
- Paint, glitter, and other decorative materials

Directions

1. Mix salt with 2/3 cup water in saucepan.
2. Stir and boil until salt dissolves.
3. Remove from heat. Add cornstarch and 1/2 cup cold water and stir. If mixture doesn't immediately thicken, heat and stir until it does.
4. Sprinkle cornstarch on table and rolling pin.
5. Roll out clay and cut with cookie cutters. Use straw to make holes for hanging.
6. Let dry overnight and decorate with paint, glitter, and so on.
7. Remind your child that these ornaments are not edible!

Bubble Solutions

The following three bubble-solution recipes come from Science World in Vancouver, British Columbia. They say the following about glycerine: "Not all detergents require the addition of glycerine in order to make good soap solutions. Glycerine helps soap bubbles hold water and this helps to keep the bubbles from popping. Try a tablespoon or two for a small batch (we're not exact about it). Glycerine can be purchased at most pharmacies. You won't need much, so don't go buying caseloads."

All-Purpose Bubble Solution

Here's a good all-purpose solution for most bubble tricks, experiments, and activities.

Materials

- 7-10 parts water
- 1 part dish detergent
- Glycerine

Directions

Combine water, detergent, and 1-2 tablespoons of glycerine (see note above) in a bowl or plastic container.

Outdoor Adventures Thick Bubble Solution

This is a thick, goopy solution that forms bubbles strong enough to withstand a small puff of air. You can blow bubbles inside of bubbles with this mixture, and you don't need a straw. Just make a bubble and blow!

Materials

- 2 1/2-3 parts water
- 1 part dish detergent
- Glycerine

Directions

Combine water, detergent, and 1-2 tablespoons of glycerine (see note above) in a bowl or plastic container.

Bouncy Bubble Solution

This is a fun solution that you can bounce off your clothes.

Materials

- 2 packages unflavored gelatin
- 4 cups hot water (just boiled)
- 3-5 tablespoons glycerine
- 3 tablespoons dish detergent

Directions

Dissolve the gelatin in hot water. Add glycerine and dish detergent. This mixture will gel, so you'll need to reheat it whenever you use it.

Homemade Silly Putty

Materials

- 2 parts white glue
- 1 part liquid starch
- Small mixing bowl
- Airtight container

Directions

1. Combine glue and starch in a bowl and mix well.
2. Let dry until the putty is workable.
3. You may have to add a bit more glue or starch. (This may not work well on a humid day.)
4. Experiment!
5. Store in an airtight container.

