

For Leaders and Staff

PLAY DOUGHS TO USE FOR MODELING

PLAY DOUGH

3 cups flour
1 cup salt
1 cup water with food coloring added
1 tablespoon cooking oil

1. Mix the flour and salt.
2. Add the water and oil a little at a time and mix.
3. If the dough is too stiff, add more water. If it's too sticky, add more flour.
4. Alum, which can be purchased at the drugstore, can be added as a preservative so the play dough will keep longer, but it isn't necessary in a cool climate.

SALT DOUGH

4 cups salt
1 cup cornstarch
About 1 cup water with food coloring added

1. Mix the salt and cornstarch.
2. Add enough water to form a paste.
3. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, about 5 to 10 minutes until mixture reaches play dough consistency.
4. This is not sticky like flour dough, and it won't get moldy because it has so much salt in it.

NOTE: Coffee grounds, sand, cornmeal, etc. can be added to any of the above recipes to give the dough texture and color. Children can also paint the dough after it dries.

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BAKERS DOUGH RECIPE

4 cups flour

1 cup salt

1½ cups water

In a large flat-bottomed bowl, mix flour and salt with rubber spatula or wooden spoon. Add water slowly, mixing as you pour. Additional water may be needed, depending on the humidity of the weather. However, use caution in adding more water, as dough should be very stiff for best results. Knead for 10 minutes. Dough is ready to sculpt when texture appears soft and smooth.

Bake finished creations in 325° - 350° oven, never hotter. Baking time will depend on thickness of dough. Usually, allow ½ hour baking time per ¼ inch thickness of dough. Average time is 1 hour. Figures should be hard in the joints and as rigid as tree twigs when removed from the oven.

To achieve pleasant browned areas, brush with canned milk where darker highlight is desired.

Dough expands slightly in baking.

HELPFUL HINTS

- * Use a COOKIE SHEET or baking tin which is flat and smooth. If the sheet has bumps and dents, your sculptures will not bake flat and in turn will not mount well on boards or hang flat on the wall. Stainless steel baking sheets seem to perform best.
- * LONG NARROW SECTIONS of sculptures (stems, legs, tails, etc.) tend to bend upwards in baking. Either bake them separately in disjointed pieces or break at the joint before mounting so both pieces may be glued flat on background.
- * THIN DELICATE PORTIONS such as fringe, hair, grass, tails or stems will brown faster than the main body. Bake entire piece a shorter length of time or cover vulnerable areas with foil for protection.
- * OLD DOUGH turns gray and may not bake properly. It could be used, however, by kneading in additional flour. We recommend preparation of a new batch of dough for each sculpting session because of the medium's tendency to deteriorate in a few days.
- * SEAL FINISHED OBJECTS with acrylic spray. This helps preserve the piece and protect it from moisture while at the same time, adding a pleasing gloss.
- * Use small dabs of water when JOINING one piece of dough to another. Otherwise, your creation may fall apart during or after baking.
- * LARGE FLAT SCULPTURES tend to curl in baking. Put weights (such as heavy metal tools or rocks) on such pieces after they have been in oven long enough to support the weight without suffering indentation marks.
- * KEEP DOUGH in a plastic container while using parts of it. It dries very quickly if left exposed to warm air.
- * Some types of UNBAKED pieces could be left at room temperature for several hours before going into the oven for baking. However, for best results, bake them within a few hours after construction.
- * If sculptures tend to PUFF UP in baking, reduce oven temperature 25°, knead more flour into the dough, or poke with a pin to release air.
- * EXTRA THIN sculptures will bake rather rapidly. Watch them closely to prevent burning. Lower baking temperature will also help.