

PLAY DOUGH RECIPES

This is the simplest way to make play dough—just add boiling water!

REGULAR PLAY DOUGH

1 cup (125 g) all-purpose flour

2 tablespoons (22 g) cream of tartar

½ cup (150 g) salt

Food coloring or cinnamon, spirulina powder, or other natural coloring

¾ to 1 cup (175 to 250 ml) boiling water

1 tablespoon (15 ml) neutral oil (like vegetable or canola)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. The children can mix the dry ingredients and food coloring together in a medium bowl.
2. Add the boiling water and oil to the dry ingredients and mix with a wooden spoon until the dough pulls away from the edges of the bowl. (This is a step for the adult or, with supervision, for older children.)
3. Let the mixture cool, 5 to 10 minutes, then have the children knead it until it's smooth.
4. Store the dough in a sealed container at room temperature for up to 6 months.

Makes about a cup [240 ml] of play dough.

CHOCOLATE MUD PLAY DOUGH

1¼ cups (150 g) all-purpose flour

½ cup (40 g) cocoa

1 teaspoon (3 g) cream of tartar

¼ cup (75 g) salt

¾ to 1 cup (175 to 250 ml) boiling water

2 tablespoons (30 ml) neutral oil (like vegetable or canola)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. The children can mix the dry ingredients together in a medium bowl.
2. Add the boiling water and oil to the dry ingredients and mix with a wooden spoon until the dough pulls away from the edges of the bowl. (This is a step for the adult or, with supervision, for older children.)
3. Let the mixture cool, 5 to 10 minutes, then have the children knead it until it's smooth.
4. Store the dough in a sealed container at room temperature for up to 6 months.

Makes about a cup [240 ml] of play dough.

SALT DOUGH

1 cup (300 g) salt

2 cups (240 g) all-purpose flour

1 cup (250 ml) lukewarm water

Powdered tempera paint, food coloring, cocoa, curry powder, or other natural coloring (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add the salt and flour to a large bowl, stirring with a wooden spoon to combine. Gradually stir in the water and, if desired, add the coloring. Mix until the dough comes together and pulls away from the edges of the bowl.
2. Knead the dough on a clean counter for at least 5 minutes. The longer you knead the dough, the smoother it will be.
3. Store the dough in an air-tight container at room temperature, and it will keep for several weeks to a few months.

Makes about 2 cups [480 ml] of play dough.

TO MAKE ORNAMENTS

Mold the finished play dough into shapes and let it air dry or dry it in the oven at 200°F (93°C). Bake thin ornaments for 45 to 60 minutes and thick ornaments for 2 to 3 hours or until firm. Transfer ornaments to a cooling rack and let cool before handling. You may paint the ornament if desired.