

ERRP- Homemade Clay Dough Recipes – 6 OPTIONS!

1) BASIC SALT DOUGH CLAY RECIPE

1 CUP SALT

2 CUPS FLOUR

¾ CUP WARM WATER

Tablespoon Oil

DIRECTIONS: In a large bowl, mix flour, salt and then water. Add oil. Mix with hands works best but makes a mess!

Air dry art for 2 days or place in oven at 270 to 300 degrees for 1 hour.

2) HOMEMADE CLAY RECIPE

- 1 cup flour
- 1½ cups salt
- 1 cup water (give or take a bit)
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Mix the salt and flour in a bowl. Add water ¼ cup at a time, mixing well. You may not need all of the water or you may need a bit more depending on the humidity and temperature in the work area. Mix until you form a ball, then take it out of the bowl and knead it a bit. It should be firm but pliable. You can pinch off pieces and use food coloring to color them, or you can leave it and paint over it later. Form it into desired shapes. It will shrink some, but no more than about 10%. You can let it air dry, but baking it at 250°F will make it harder. Bake time will be dependent on the thickness of the pieces. For something the size of a ping pong ball, bake for about 20 minutes.

3) Homemade Air Dry Clay Recipe

- 2 cups baking soda
- 1 cup cornstarch plus more for kneading
- 1 ½ cups water

Instructions

1. In a small pot, mix together the baking soda and cornstarch. Stir in the water until completely blended.
2. Place pot over medium heat and cook, stirring constantly for 10 to 15 minutes until the clay begins to form. Remove from heat and continue stirring until the mixture becomes a sticky but soft dough.
3. Allow the dough to cool to the touch.
4. Place dough on a surface coated with additional cornstarch. Begin kneading the clay adding more cornstarch as needed until the clay becomes smooth and the tacky feeling is gone.
5. To store, wrap tightly in plastic wrap and place in an airtight container.
6. To dry, place shapes on a drying rack. If needed, flip shapes over after one side has dried. Depending on the thickness of the object, the clay may take up to 3 days to dry completely.

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4) Natural Polymer Clay Substitute – Must be cooked

This homemade clay recipe is a bit more involved, uses no salt, and produces a finer finish. (For more detailed projects)

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups corn starch
- 2 cups baking soda
- 1¼ cups cold water
- food coloring if desired
- Tablespoon oil
- Teaspoon liquid vegetable glycerin

Directions: Mix all the homemade clay ingredients in a saucepan and stir while heating over medium heat. It will start to thicken, much like mashed potatoes. Take it off the heat and let it cool.

When it's cool enough to work with, knead it as above. You can add a tablespoon of oil (baby or mineral oil works) and a teaspoon of liquid vegetable glycerin to make it more smooth.

At this point, you can pinch off pieces and color with food coloring (or wait and paint them later in the process). Using gloves will protect your hands from food coloring and will also cut down on fingerprints.

Form homemade clay pieces into desired shapes. Bake at 250°F for 15-20 minutes. (You do need to bake this as it won't harden as well as the salt dough.)

If painting your pieces, wait until pieces are completely cooled to paint.

5) CLAY RECIPE INGREDIENTS:

- 1/3 part of flour
- 1/3 part of salt
- 1/3 part of cornstarch
- Water

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Stir together flour, salt, and cornstarch in a bowl.
- Then mix in water a small amount at a time until your mixture reaches clay consistency.

While this homemade clay recipe technically can be air dried, it can take several days. Instead, put finished clay creations into a low temperature (250 degree) oven

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6) Flour, Salt, and Cream of Tartar Clay (Cooked version)

- 2 cups (470 mL) of water
- 2 cups (250 g) of all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup (230 g) of salt
- 4 tsp (14 g) of cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons (30 mL) of vegetable oil
- Food coloring (optional)
- Vanilla extract (optional)
- Non-stick pot
- Wooden spoon
- Plastic resealable bag

Combine all-purpose flour, salt, and cream of tartar in a large pot. Use measuring cups to add 2 cups (250 g) of all-purpose flour and 3/4 cup (230 g) of table salt to a large non-stick pot. Then, measure out 4 tsp (14 g) of cream of tartar with a spoon and add it to the pot. Use a wooden spoon to stir the ingredients until they're combined.

Add 2 cups (470 mL) of water and 2 US tbsp (30 mL) of vegetable oil. Use a measuring cup to pour 2 cups (470 mL) of room temperature water into the pot, then measure out 2 US tbsp (30 mL) of vegetable oil with a spoon. Stir the ingredients with your wooden spoon to combine them.^[2] Stir the ingredients until all of the dry ingredients are moist from the wet ingredients

Heat the ingredients over medium heat while stirring with a wooden spoon. Place the pot on your stove and turn burner on medium heat. Use a wooden spoon to stir the ingredients continuously as you heat them. ^[3]

Don't let the clay sit against the sides of the pot, as it will burn. **Stir it continuously so it heats evenly.**

Stop stirring and turn off the burner when the clay is a thick ball. Once the ingredients are well-combined, they'll start to form a lump that sticks to your spoon. When your clay ball forms, turn off the heat and move the pot to a cool burner.^[4]

Be careful with the clay and the pot, as they are both hot!

Place the clay on wax paper so it can cool for 1-2 minutes. Use your wooden spoon to remove the clay ball from the pot. Place the clay ball on a sheet of wax paper so it can cool for about 2 minutes. Then, use your fingertip to see if the ball feels warm to the touch but not hot. Handle the clay when it feels about room temperature.^[5] The clay will be hot when you first take it out of the pot. Don't touch it because it will likely burn your hand.

Knead the room temperature clay until it's soft and smooth. Use your hands to press and squish the clay to push out air bubbles, improve the consistency, and eliminate clumping. Continue to work the clay until it feels soft and pliable.^[6] You can also pick up your clay and throw it down on the counter to work out any air bubbles that might be present. This will help your clay stay moist longer.

Dye your clay using 5-6 drops of food coloring if you like. Place the clay into a plastic, resealable bag. Then, add 5-6 drops of food coloring to the bag. Seal the bag and knead the clay between your hands until the color is evenly distributed.^[7]

Store your clay in a resealable plastic bag for up to 3 months. When you're not using your clay, keep it in an airtight container so it won't dry out. If you store it correctly, your clay should last for several months.^[8]