

How to make cornflour clay

Make some beautifully smooth cornflour clay - this is so lovely to work with and you can use it to make pretty clay hanging decorations. It feels

so lovely in your hands. Here are the step by step instructions.

You will need:

- cornflour
- PVA glue
- a mixing bowl and spoon
- rolling pin and cookie cutters
- ribbon for hanging (if you make decorations)

How to make cornflour clay

1. You need two parts cornflour and one part glue - here, to make a small amount of dough, we used one cup of cornflour and half a cup of PVA glue.
2. Mix the two ingredients together in a bowl.
3. They should come to a dough which you can pick up and mould in your hands. Add a little more glue if it is not sticking and a little more cornflour if it is too squidgy until you get your dough looking right. You can use the dough to make all sorts of models (little snowmen are cute in winter time) or you can use it to make pretty hanging decorations. At this stage you can separate out the dough and colour it [or paint it at the end].
4. For cut out decorations -Sprinkle a bit of cornflour on your board and then roll out your dough.
5. Use a cookie cutter to cut out shapes.
6. Make a hole in the top with the bottom of a paintbrush.
7. We added decoration by pressing in a pretty patterned spoon to leave patterns in our dough. You could also use a fork to make dots and Lego or coins to make patterns - experiment with different things. Try writing on them with cocktail sticks too.
8. Then bake your cornflour dough in a low oven [160C] for about an hour (they might not take as long as this). Once cool you can paint add glitter, jems or any other embellishments wanted



How to make salt dough

1 cup salt

2 cups of flour

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water + 1 dessert spoon of cooking oil

Instructions:

1. In a large bowl mix salt and flour together.
2. Gradually stir in water. Mix well until it forms a doughy consistency.
3. Turn the dough onto the bench and kneed with your hands until smooth and combined.
4. Make your creations using the salt dough.
5. Place the salt dough creations into the oven at 170C. The amount of time needed to bake depends on the size and thickness of the salt dough creations but should take at least 3 hours [they will also dry out if left in a warm place for 24 hours]



This recipe takes longer drying time but is more reliable, especially for modelling.

MICROWAVE SALT DOUGH RECIPE [this only works for thin shapes]

1/2 cup of salt

1/2 cup of water

1 cup of flour

HOW TO MAKE THE SALT DOUGH

Add the 1/2 cup of salt and 1 cup of flour to a bowl, and stir in the water adding it slowly. You may not need all of the water. You want the dough to be dry. If it gets sticky add more flour. Knead the dough and then roll out and use as you want.

Instead of drying in the oven this is dried in the microwave

When you zap the salt dough in the microwave take it 10 seconds at a time.

Why?

Because each microwave is different and even your salt dough will be different thicknesses. Microwaving for 10 seconds and checking means that you can avoid over-cooking, which can cause the salt dough to bubble.

If you want your dough figures to last they will need to be varnished them 2 times