

Air Dry Clay Sculptures

Let's create! Make a unique sculpture using air dry clay you make yourself. In the video, Kelsey makes ornaments, but your imagination is the limit! You can even try making and combining multiple shapes to create bigger objects!

How-to video

<https://youtu.be/dnnAt8vWvIU>



Materials:

- Large pot
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 2 cups baking soda
- 1.5 cups water
- Whisk or wooden spoon
- Parchment paper
- Trusted adult!
- Ziplock bags if you want to store your clay
- Art supplies like paint, paintbrushes, food coloring if you want to dye your clay (optional)

Steps:

1. **Mix dry ingredients.** Add both the cornstarch and baking soda to your pot and mix well.
2. **Add water.** And mix mix mix! Cornstarch is a funny ingredient, so if it seems like the dry ingredients don't want to incorporate with the water very well, keep going! Soon enough everything will combine and the mixture will seem very thin.
3. **Lay down parchment paper.** Clay will take form fairly quickly on the stove, and you don't want it to burn! Lay down your parchment paper at your workstation before you start at the stove so you can get your clay out of the pot fast.
4. **Hand off pot to your trusted adult.** Don't attempt the stove portion on your own! Although feel free to supervise.

5. **Move pot to stove and turn on to medium heat.** While the mixture is heating up, stir constantly so the mixture doesn't separate while it's coming to a boil. If it does, it can be a bit tricky to get the cornstarch to incorporate with the other ingredients fully, but can be done with a bit of muscle.
6. **Let boil and scrape.** Once the mixture starts to boil, scrape the bottom of the pot and then stop stirring so the clay can begin to take form. Keep letting it boil for a few seconds and then scraping.
7. **Repeat until mixture turns to toothpaste consistency.** Once the entire mixture forms together and turns into a toothpaste consistency, remove from heat and stir until the mixture goes from toothpaste to mashed potatoes (sounds very weird!).
8. **Dump mixture onto parchment paper.** Once your mixture is a mashed potatoes consistency, get it out of the pot quick! It can potentially burn, otherwise. Once the clay is onto the parchment paper, soak your pot in soapy water and let your clay fully cool before handling.
9. **If you want to dye your clay, add food coloring.** In the video, Kelsey divided her batch in half, so half could be dyed with food coloring and half could remain white to be painted. If you want to add food coloring, divide your batch in however many colors you want, and then roll each portion in between your hands to form a ball, then flatten to make a pancake. Add in a couple drops of food coloring and fold into your clay. The more you handle your clay, the more mixed-in the color will be.
10. **Shape and sculpt and build!** Let your imagination run wild! What will you create?
11. **Let dry.** Once your shapes are how you'd like them to be, set aside in a safe place until they're fully dry.
12. **Paint!** Decorate your masterpiece!
13. **Let dry again.** You're so patient.

You did it!

Caregiver Tip:

Try asking your learner some open-ended questions to get the sharing started!

What was your favorite part of the process?

What was the most challenging part of the process?

What is your favorite part of your sculpture?

What would you do differently the next time?