

City of Swan

DIY

Play dough



Ingredients

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup plain flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cornflour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt
- 2 tsp cream of tartar
- 1 tbs vegetable oil
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water (cold is ok but boiling water typically results in a smoother mixture)
- Food colouring of your choice.

Method

1. Mix the flours, salt and cream of tartar in a large bowl
2. Add the water and oil, mixing with a spoon until the mixture is cool enough to knead by hand
3. Separate the dough into smaller balls. Each ball will become a different colour
4. Make an indent in each dough ball and add drops of colouring, then fold the dough over itself until the colour is even throughout. Repeat for the remaining balls and colours
5. Store in a jar or sealed container.





Tips

- The play dough should last about three months, as long as you use the cream of tartar
- Using boiling water usually results in a smoother and longer-lasting mixture, but take care when pouring and mixing to avoid accidents
- Compost the play dough at the end of its life or bury it in the garden
- DIY play dough is a great low-waste party activity or party favour. You can add a couple of small balls of different colours to a jar and label it as you like
- Adding a drop of essential oil, such as lavender, can create a calming effect when using the play dough
- Create a nature-inspired play dough creature by adding compostable decorations to your dough such as gum nuts, leaves, flowers and twigs
- Try colouring with natural dyes such as turmeric, blueberries, red cabbage, coffee, pumpkin powder and spinach. These can be added directly or boiled down to create a dye
- This recipe makes enough dough for about two party favours (each with two small balls of two colours in a jar). Purchasing the ingredients package-free from a local zero-waste store makes this a very cost-effective activity, gift or party favour.



For other waste-wise recipes and to learn more, visit
swan.wa.gov.au/waste-and-sustainability/education