

Salt Dough

This is the dough to mix if you want modelling dough that you can later bake hard in an oven. There are many variations on this simple recipe; our advice is to experiment until you get what you want.

Ingredients

4 cups flour
1 cup salt
1- 1 1/2 cups hot water from the tap
2 teaspoons vegetable oil (optional)

Method

Mix salt and flour together and gradually add the water until the dough becomes elastic. This is where the vegetable oil can be added if you want. If the mixture turns out to be too sticky, simply add more flour; if it is too crumbly add more water. Knead the dough until it is a good consistency.

If you coloured dough, mix food colouring, powdered drink mix, or paint into the water before adding it to the dry ingredients. You can also paint your creations after baking them

Baking is done at 200 degrees centigrade, and times will vary depending on the size and thickness of the object, but make sure all of it is hard. If the dough starts to darken before cooking is complete, cover it with aluminium foil. Painted keepsakes will need to be sealed with a polyurethane varnish on all sides.

You can store unbaked salt dough for up to two days in a sealed container in a refrigerator, but for no longer.

Play Dough

This is the dough to mix if you want modelling dough that you use and re-use.

Ingredients

1 cup plain flour
1/2 cup salt
2 teaspoons of cream of tartar
1 cup water
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
Food colouring (optional)

Method

Place all the ingredients in a pan and stir whilst heating it over a medium heat.

Alternatively, mix all the ingredients in a plastic bowl and place in the microwave. Heat on full power, stirring the mixture at 30 second intervals. This should take around 4 minutes or less (depending on the wattage of your microwave).

Allow the mixture to cool and store it in a plastic box in the fridge.