

HOMEMADE CHALK

Make festive homemade chalk this quick and easy craft.

MATERIALS

- Plaster of Paris
- Silicon mold
 - Or, paper roll and wax paper
- Plastic or disposable bowls, spoons and stirrers (The end of a plastic utensil will do.)
- Measuring cups: 1/3 or 1/4 cup
 - 2/3 cup of Plaster of Paris yielded four letters
- Measuring spoons: teaspoon or tablespoon
- Container for water
- Cardboard or other work-surface protection
- Paper towels/rag for spills

CRAFTING TIPS

- Plaster of Paris hardens quickly (6-8 minutes). Be prepared to work in batches and to clean your supplies right away.
- Wipe any spills up immediately before the plaster sets and hardens.
- If you want the same color each time, you'll want to carefully measure your ingredients. My "eye-balling" technique yielding varying shades of blue!
- Adding just white paint did not change the color of my mixture
- Adding more than 2-3 teaspoons of paint prevents the mixture from drying/setting.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Set up your station.
 - For paper roll and wax paper, cut wax paper to fit the roll and secure. Use excess wax paper as a base on which your roll should dry.
- Mix two parts Plaster of Paris with 1 part water.
 - Place Plaster of Paris in bowl first and then add water. Mix well.
- Add 1 teaspoon of paint to your mixture and mix well.
 - If your spoon can stand up (see photo right), your mixture is too thick.
 - Thin your mixture by either 1) add a 1/2 teaspoon of water or 2) adding more paint.
- For letters, add a drop or two of water before adding your mixture.
- Spoon mixture into mold or paper roll.
- Add a few drops of water or thinned out mixture to the top.
- Level/smooth the mixture by using the flat side of utensil.
- Wash bowls and utensils immediately before the plaster hardens.
- Typically, Plaster of Paris sets in 30 minutes.
 - Lightly touch the top of your mold to check to see if it's dry. If you can see your fingerprint in the chalk, it's not ready yet.

