

Paper Clay Sculptures

Use commonly found household items to mix your own paper clay. Then use it to create whimsical sculptures inspired by nature.

Materials you will need:

- Large mixing bowl
- Shredded paper
- Water
- Blender
- Measuring cup
- Cheese or thin cloth
- 1 cup of glue
- 3 Tbsp flour
- 1/2 Tbsp baking soda
- 1 Tbsp vinegar
- 1 Tbsp salt
- Oil

Optional: Paint/Paintbrush, pebbles, leaves, string

Project Directions:

Step 1: Shred Paper

Shred paper into small pieces and place in a bowl.

Step 2: Add Water

Soak paper shreds in hot water and leave for a few hours or overnight. Keep in mind that thicker papers such as those from magazines will take longer to soak.

Step 3: Pulse Paper

Using a blender, pulse paper a few times to create a pulp. The fibers should feel loose and mushy.

Step 4: Strain Paper

Strain paper shreds and remove excess water using cheese cloth or something similar.

Step 5: Mix Ingredients

In a large mixing bowl, add 1 cup of glue, 3 Tbsp of flour, and 1/2 Tbsp of baking soda, mix. Add 1 Tbsp of vinegar, and 1 Tbsp of salt and mix well.

Step 6: Add Paper

Working in small batches, add paper pulp into large mixing bowl with other ingredients.

Step 7: Mix

Break up paper clumps and mix paper pulp well.

Step 8: Begin Sculpting

Once clay has been mixed well, you can begin sculpting with it. The clay is a bit messy so working on a plastic covered surface is recommended. A great way to start is using existing objects as forms or molds, for example a bowl or cup. Make sure to add a bit of oil when using an object as a form or mold to keep clay from sticking as it dries.

Step 9: Dry and Paint

The clay sculptures will take approximately a day to fully dry. Once clay is dry, you can use hot glue to combine the pieces and paint them using acrylic paint which will adhere to the rough surface. Consider incorporating natural objects such as shells, rocks or leaves. Try going vertical by using string to hang some of your small creations.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7



Step 8



Step 9

