

## ALTERNATIVE CRAFT MATERIALS

### Alternatives to store-bought glue

Tricky to create glue at home with long term sticking power but three suggestions below using kitchen ingredients (best for paper crafts). All will survive a few days if stored in an air-tight container. Recipes listed in order of least sticky to most sticky:

1. Flour and water glue –  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup flour mixed with small amount of water until gooey. Add pinch of salt and stir.
2. Milk glue - see separate recipe
3. Vinegar and gelatine glue – put 3 tbsp vinegar in a microwavable bowl and microwave for 1 minute. Add 3tbsp sugar-free gelatine, stir well until blended. Microwave for 30 seconds. Allow to cool before use.
4. Corn flour and syrup glue – mix  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup water, 2 tbsp corn flour, 1 teaspoon white vinegar in a small saucepan. Bring to boil. In a small bowl mix 2 tbsp golden syrup and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup cold water. Add this mixture to the hot mixture, stirring constantly until it returns to the boil. Boil for one minute then remove from heat. When slightly cooled, pour into another container and store overnight before use.

### Alternatives to plasticine / clay

1. Saltdough

Combine 1 cup salt, 1 cup water and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup flour in a saucepan; mix and cook over medium heat. Remove from heat when mixture is thick and rubbery. As mixture cools, knead in enough flour to make the dough workable. Keep in airtight container. Models, decorations etc can be left uncovered to harden overnight and then painted.

2. Coloured playdough - Can last for 6 months if kept in airtight container.

Combine 1 cup water, 1 tbsp vegetable oil,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup salt, 1 tbsp cream of tartar and food colouring in saucepan and heat until warm. Remove from heat and add 1 cup flour. Stir, then knead until smooth. Do not refrigerate.

3. American Baker's Clay

Mix 4 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups water in a large bowl. If the dough is too dry, add another tbsp water with your hands. Dough can be rolled out and cut with cookie cutters, surface patterns can be created with forks, buttons, screws etc, holes made for hanging etc. Items can be baked for 30 minutes at 120 degree low heat, then turned over and baked for a further  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours until hard and dry. Once completely cool, items can be painted with acrylic paints or nail polish.

### Alternatives to store-bought paint

1. Condensed milk paint – in a bowl, mix one cup condensed milk with drops of food colouring to make a very glossy, brightly coloured paint.
2. Egg Tempera – ancient paint method used by Egyptians and Medieval artists for many religious icons. The paint itself smells a little when wet but once dry, it's smell-free and retains excellent colour for years. Really good for fine work and layering semi translucent colours. Use small brushes for best effect.

Separate one fresh egg yolk from the white. Gently pierce the yolk with a toothpick, let the contents fall out of the sack into a cup. Add one teaspoon water and a drop of vinegar. Separate the mixture into smaller amounts (in egg cups or ice cube trays). Drop food colouring in each and stir to create paint.