



DIY chalk

Did you know that you can make your own chalk? And it's easy! This chalk is made into giant sticks, which is great for little hands to grab hold of, and perfect for pavements and patios. You can create a giant masterpiece and then let the rain wash it off.

You will need (for 6 giant pieces)

3 A4 acetate sheets
Scissors
Duct tape
Large lump of play dough
Tray
9oz (240g) plaster of Paris
Small bowls
Metal spoons
Water
Poster paint in 6 colours



Plaster of Paris heats up as it hardens. An adult should always do the mixing and pouring. Do not put into direct contact with skin.

1 For the moulds, cut out six acetate squares each 5 x 5in (12 x 12cm). Roll each square into a tube, leaving an overlap of about 1in (2cm). Tape the edge to seal.

2 Roll out a 1in (2cm) thick circle of play dough. Transfer it onto a tray or board and push in the upright acetate tubes.

3 For each chalk stick, measure 1½oz (40g) plaster of Paris into a bowl. In another bowl or a cup, mix 2fl.oz (60ml) water with 1 tbs paint. Add this to the plaster of Paris and mix thoroughly.

4 Then spoon the mixture into a tube. Once full, use the end of the spoon to prod away any gaps and air bubbles in the mixture.

5 Repeat steps 3 and 4 to make the other five chinks. Set them aside to harden overnight, then remove the acetate and allow them to fully dry. The chalk will be usable, but probably still a little damp, after 24 hours. For best results, leave for a couple of days.