



Polymer Clay

Materials

Assorted colors of polymer clay(15-20)
Shaping Tools
Working mat
Clay/cookie cutters
Tooth picks
Tin foil
Molds
Bead baking rack
Oven
Parchment paper

Safety Instructions:

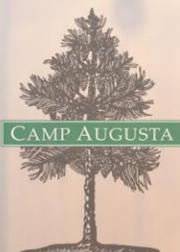
If you ever burn any polymer clay you will quickly realize how toxic it is. Breathing in the fumes of burnt clay can give you a terrible headache. If you ever burn your clay turn off the oven, open the windows and leave the room (or house!). Always try to bake with a window open or ventilation system and I never sit right next to my oven as it is baking. If you are using the same oven that you use to bake food in I recommend placing your creations in a tinfoil tent. You can do this by putting your pieces in a deeper pan and wrapping tinfoil around the top. This way none of the plasticizer that is burned off in the baking process will come out and coat the inside of your oven.

**Remember to wash your hands- when you work with the clay a residue will be left on your hands. Make sure campers are keeping their hands out of their eyes, mouth, nose, etc. and be sure to get hands washed when finishing the clinic- eating clay is not very healthy either!

Tool for sculpting and cutting the clay are often sharp and pointy. Be mindful of your surrounding when using these tools and make sure to store them in a safe location what they're not being used.

Lesson plan:

Start the clinic by giving each camper a working mat, place sculpting tools and assorted clay cubes in the center of the work space.



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Baking Clay:

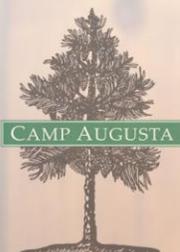
1. Preheat your oven to 175 degrees. I strongly recommend using an oven thermometer because you don't want to bake your clay at over 300 degrees (harmful fumes can be produced and it will burn very fast). You also don't want to bake your clay at fewer than 270 because then it will not be sturdy enough.
2. Bake for 30 minutes. Unless you are baking a really thick (more than 1/2 an inch) piece of clay you do not need to bake longer. I bake everything I make for 30 minutes.
3. Let it cool. It actually hardens as it cools. I always just turn off the oven and let my pieces cool in the oven because this lets out less fumes and I don't have to worry about bumping something that is still hot because the clay is still soft until it gets cool.

Breakdown:

Neatly put supplies back into the clinic box. Make sure any sharp supplies are going back into their sharps container and closed tightly. Ball up any unused clay and add it back to the clay supply.

Notes:

Make sculptures sturdier and save on clay making the desired shape out of tinfoil first and then cover with clay.
Polymer clay can be baked over and over again. If a camper is working a larger project over the span of a few clinics, still bake it after each clinic.
All polymer clay brands can be mixed together when creating different color blends.



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