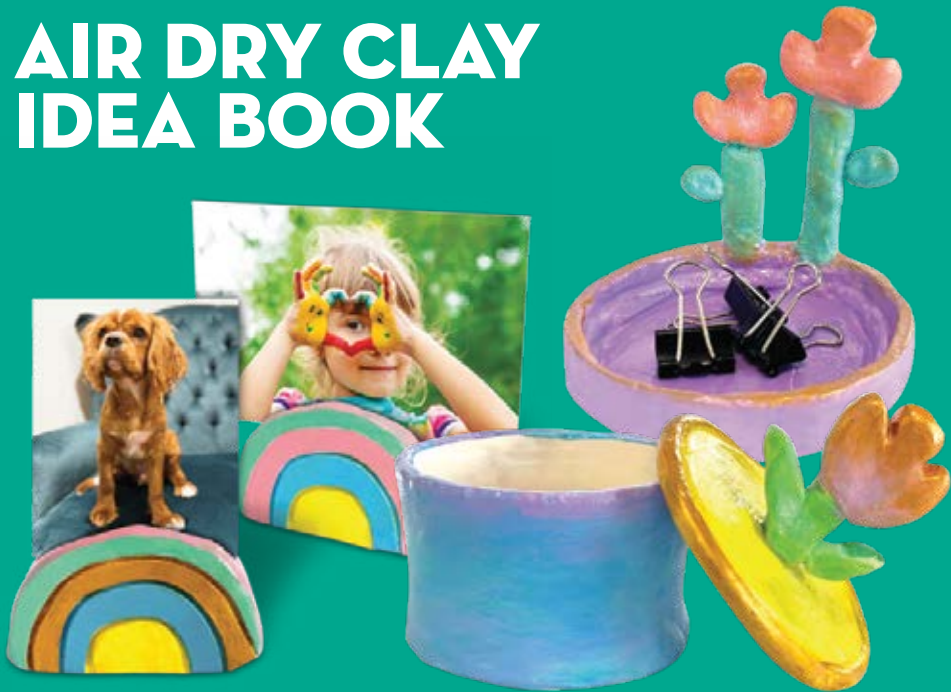


AIR DRY CLAY IDEA BOOK





What is Air Dry Clay?

Air dry clay is a fine, natural earth clay that dries hard without baking. It can be used to make decorative items, sculptures, hanging ornaments, figurines, hand imprints, trinket dishes and so much more.

The natural nature of the clay makes it non-toxic and safe for kids to use.



Air Dry Clay Tips and Tricks

1 Prepare your surface and work area

Always make sure your work surface is flat, clean and free from dust.

Air dry clay can be sticky. To ensure your project can be easily removed, cover the area with wax paper or a silicone craft mat. Wax paper can also be used on top of the clay when rolling.

Have a small container of water handy, so it is ready to use if needed. Water can be used to soften clay, join pieces of clay together and to smooth the surface. Damp hands can also prevent the clay from sticking to your skin too much. Water should be used sparingly and only if needed. Too much water can cause the clay to crack.



2 Condition the clay

For best results, knead the clay until smooth and soft so it becomes pliable and easier to shape.

3 Rolling out the clay

Air dry clay should be at least 5mm thick but not too thick that it won't dry. Clay that is too thin will crack and may break during the drying process.

4 Smoothing the clay and filling cracks

Use a tool or your fingers with a little water to smooth the surface of the clay.

Clay will shrink as it dries which can cause cracks to appear if it doesn't dry evenly. Fix the small cracks by filling with 'slip' (see 5. Joining Clay section for how to make slip). Then set aside to dry and repeat if needed.





5 *Joining clay*

To join two pieces of clay together, use the 'score' and 'slip' method for a strong bond. For best results, wait for the clay to be partially dry, also known as leather hard.

Score both surfaces you want to join with a tool. This means to scratch a cross hatch pattern into the clay. The rough texture will help the clay adhere together.

To make slip, combine bits of clay with water until it is a paste-like consistency. The slip will act as the glue. Apply the slip on to the score.

Press the two pieces firmly together and hold until the pieces stay together by themselves. Wipe away any excess slip from the join.





6 *Drying clay*

Set the completed clay project aside to air dry naturally.

Air dry clay is slow drying and can take 24 - 72 hours to harden. Climatic conditions and thickness of the clay will vary drying time.

To speed up the drying process and to allow your creation to dry evenly, carefully flip the finished piece over so all sides are exposed to air.

If you have used a mould to shape the clay, remove it before drying so the clay dries evenly. Leaving the mould in will cause the clay to crack.

7 *Storing excess clay*

Wrap any leftover clay in cling film and place it in an airtight container so it retains moisture. Store in a cool dark place.



Air Dry Clay Ideas



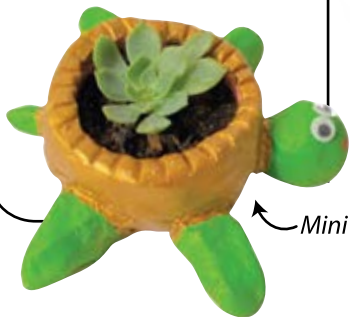
Tip: Make sure the clay has fully dried before painting. A gloss or matt varnish can also be applied after the paint has dried to finish your project. Varnish sold separately.

Trinket box with lid



Unsealed clay will break down if it comes into contact with water.

Apply a waterproof sealer (sold separately) over the entire surface of the clay pot and allow it to dry before potting a plant.



Mini pot plant



Trinket dish

Tip: *Toothpicks can be inserted into the clay to add strength to tall, thin designs such as the flowers on this dish.*

