

Salt Dough Ornaments



Materials Needed:

- ✓ 1 cup of salt
- ✓ 2 cups of flour
- ✓ 1 cup of water
- ✓ Cookie sheet
- ✓ Cookie cutters
- ✓ Cutting board
- ✓ String, ribbon or ornament hooks
- ✓ Acrylic paint
- ✓ Paintbrushes
- ✓ A chopstick, pencil or straw



Steps:

1. Preheat your oven!
 - You will need to bake the ornaments once you have cut them out. It is recommended to use the lowest temperature possible, around 170° Fahrenheit
2. Make the dough
 - In a bowl, mix together the salt, flour and half the water with your hands. Add the rest of the water and continue mixing until the dough is smooth. If it is very sticky, add a little bit more flour at a time until smooth

3. Knead the dough

- Sprinkle flour on a clean flat surface or cutting board. Knead the dough on the surface with your hands



4. Roll out the dough

- Use a rolling pin to roll out the dough. It should be no thicker than a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or it will bubble in the oven
- Try to make a nice smooth surface



5. Cut out the shapes

- Use cookie cutters in the shapes of circles, stars, hearts, trees, angels, candy canes or snowflakes
- If you do not have a cookie cutter try carefully cutting out shapes with a knife



6. Make a hole

- You will need to make a hole in each ornament so it can hang. Use a pencil, chopstick or drinking straw to poke a hole in the top of your ornaments. The hole needs to be big enough so that it doesn't close up during baking and you can get a piece of string or wire through



7. Bake

- Put the ornaments on a cookie sheet and bake for 3 hours. The reason you have to bake it at a low temperature for a long time is so that they stay nice and smooth and flat. It draws out all the moisture so that the ornaments are durable
- After the ornaments are out of the oven let them cool for 1 hour

8. Decorate!

- Use the paint and brushes to design the ornaments. You can also add glitter or stickers

9. Hang up

- Cut little pieces of string or ribbon and loop it through the hole in the ornament. Tie it together.



TIP: If you want your ornament to hang so that it will always be facing out toward you, you can use this type of knot! Bonus that this is also removable if you want to replace the string you chose.

1. First tie the ends of a piece of string or ribbon together so you have a loop
2. Push either end of the loop through the hole in your ornament
3. Pull the opposite end through the small loop created by pushing the end through



Additional Skill Practice:

Here are some additional skills you can work on with your kiddo related to this craft:

- Art
- Direction following
- Shape identification
- Color Identification
- Fine motor skills
- Gross motor skills