

45 Minute
- 1 Hour
Activity
For
Everyone

Sidewalk Expression

Using chalk to create street and sidewalk art may be new to some yet it has a deep tradition in many parts of Europe, with its origins dating back to the 16th century. Chalk comes from a sedimentary rock that is soft, white and porous, naturally occurring in many places around the globe. Street and sidewalk chalk artists have always used their talent to express themselves and evoke a feeling or message through their art. Here is an activity for you and your family to make homemade chalk. Sparking creativity and providing a platform for you to express yourself and share a message or feeling with those who walk by your sidewalk canvas. This is a great way to lift someone's spirits and to spread positivity.

Activity:

- Start by gathering all the supplies and materials that you will need, see materials list below.

Note, once you start the chalk making process you will have limited time, 20-30 minutes, until the chalk begins to set. Be prepared and move quickly when creating your chalk.

- First, make or select the molds that you'll use to form the chalk.

Silicon Ice-cube trays, muffin tins lined with wax paper or paper towel rolls taped on one end and lined with wax paper, all work great. Be creative and use the resources available at home to form your molds.

- Now, in a small bowl mix $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of warm water with a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of Plaster of Paris until combined into a thick soupy mixture. Stir well. Make sure there are no clumps.
- Next, mix in 2-3 tablespoons of your colour choice of tempera paint until the mixture is an even tone.

Add more paint if you want the colour to be brighter.

- Once mixed, pour mixture evenly into your chalk molds. Use a small utensil to stir the chalk and help it fill into all the corners. Lightly tap the mold on a hard surface to allow all air bubbles to release.
- Set molds with chalk aside for 12-15 hours to allow chalk to set and harden. After the allotted time, remove chalk from their molds. If they are still a bit damp, give them more time to dry. Once dry they are ready to use.
- Craft your own unique piece of street or sidewalk art using your homemade chalk.



Materials Needed:

- $\frac{1}{4}$ Cup of Warm Water, $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup of Plaster of Paris, Bowl, Measuring Cups, Mixing Utensil, Tempera Paint, Molds or Materials to create molds such as; Wax Paper, Paper Towel Rolls, Tape.

Reflection Questions:

- How did making homemade chalk and crafting your own art piece make you feel? Why?
- Were you surprised to learn about our history of street and sidewalk art?
- What message or feeling did you try to evoke in your art creation? Why?
- Do you think that street art is an appropriate way of expressing yourself? Why or why not?