**Make You Own Playdough for a Playdough Salamander**

Materials

* 1 cup water
* 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
* ½ Cup salt
* 1 ½ teaspoon cream of tartar (if you plan to save the clay in the refrigerator, double this)
* Food coloring – black and yellow (1 ounce jar of black was purchased\* and some yellow)
* Saucepan
* 1 cup flour (sift it first, is best)

Directions:

1. Combine water, oil, salt, and cream of tartar. Heat to a rolling boil while stirring to dissolve the salt. After about 3 minutes boiling and stirring, add the food coloring. (You can make this whole recipe for black and cut the recipe in half for yellow)
2. Remove liquid solution from heat, cool 4-5 minutes and add flour. Add half of the flour and stir well before adding the other half (Cooling will reduce hardened flour pebbles in the mixture, plus makes less warm to handle when kneading).
3. Stir, then knead the flour into the liquid until smooth. The cream of tartar makes the dough last 6 months or longer, so resist the temptation to omit, unless it will be used immediately.
4. Store this dough in an airtight container or Ziploc freezer bag.
5. We used the black food coloring in 1-ounce small jars, purchased at Walmart ($1.99 per jar) in their cake decorating department. This cake decorating color is very strong. For this recipe, about 2 1/2 to 3 teaspoons is needed for the black. The yellow doesn’t need to be as strong, so less is needed or you can even use grocery store type food coloring found in their baking department.



Spotted Salamander