

Painted Ice Crystals

This Painted Ice Crystals Activity is a delightful winter sensory experience perfect for the outdoors creating a stunning display that sparkles beautifully in the sunlight!

What you need:

- Ice from outdoors – you can use ice or icicles you find outside (adults only – for safety reasons, only adults can knock down icicles to be painted)
- Homemade large ice crystals – Add water to silicone baking trays or line cookie sheets with silicone baking mats. (freeze outside or in your freezer until solid. Then break apart into ice crystals)
- Children's water colour paints, a variety of colours
- An assortment of paint brushes/foam brushes
- Optional: Dish gloves/rubber gloves to put on over your regular winter gloves/mitts
- Optional: A winter sled to move the ice crystals around instead of carrying them around (to keep the paint off winter jackets for example.)



What to do:

1. Choose a work surface that will be okay with getting a bit of paint on it (you can spread a layer of snow on a table for example.)
2. Set out all the ice pieces, brushing off any snow or debris that may be on top of them (especially if frozen outside.)
3. Choose gloves/mitts that you don't mind getting paint on to be safe.
4. Get the paint brushes ready (making sure little ones can hold on them to wearing their gloves/mittens.)
5. Squeeze a little of the water colour paint right onto the pieces. You'll want to work with one or two pieces at a time otherwise it may freeze before you can get to the other pieces.
6. Let the colour freeze on the ice pieces for a few minutes. The temperature in your location will impact how long this process takes. (The colder it is, the faster the paint will freeze to the ice.)
7. Picking up the ice crystals by their edges, carefully transfer them to where you would like to set them up.
8. You can play by moving them all around, stacking and building – there are so many options!
9. If you would like them to last longer, make sure to set them up in the shade as the sun will melt the paint as it melts the ice. If this happens, just grab your brushes and start painting again!

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