

# NATURE ACTIVITIES

## CHALK MURAL WITH ECO-FRIENDLY CHALK

Take part in public art by making a mural on your driveway or sidewalk! Public art brightens everyone's day! Learn how to make homemade eco-friendly chalk so we can keep our waterways safe!

### PART ONE - MAKE THE CHALK!

This part of the activity is a good experience to teach your kids how to combine a recipe to be a part of the process from start to finish. It also teaches great creative reuse skills that is better for the environment than chalk from the store.

**Resources/materials needed:** Egg shells (clean), bowl, spoon, muffin pan or soap molds, toilet paper rolls, wax paper, liquid food coloring, natural food coloring (beet, tumeric, spirulina powder, etc), spatula, blender/heavy spoon/pestle & mortar, measuring spoon

**Skills:** Cognitive, Motor Skills, Environmental Appreciation, Hand-Eye Coordination, Technical Skills, Art Making Process, Mixing, Sustainability Skills, Creative Reuse

### EGG SHELL CHALK RECIPE

#### INGREDIENTS:

- (Makes 3 pieces of chalk)
- 6 eggshells
  - 1 tsp flour
  - 2 tsp hot water
  - 1 tsp natural pigment powder (tumeric, cocoa, beet root, spirulina)
  - 2-3 drops food coloring

#### DIRECTIONS:

**Step 1:** Gather all of your materials. Set up a waterproof table cloth on your working surface. You should wash and dry your eggshells (an adult should do this part). The recipe makes 3 pieces of chalk so if you would like to make more, gather more egg shells. Wear old clothes/an apron and gloves to prevent staining from food coloring and pigment as a precaution.



Photo Credit: Bengil Post



Photo Credit: Hub Pages



Photo Credit: Forever Green Mom

**Step 2:** Grind up the 6 egg shells one at a time with a mortar & pestle, a heavy spoon in a bowl, or with a blender. It should be ground into a fine powder.

**Step 3:** Mix the 6 eggshell 1 tsp flour with 1 tsp dry natural pigment powder (if you are using it) together. If you are using food coloring liquid instead, mix 2-4 drops of food coloring into 1 tsp of hot water and mix into the flour and egg shell powder mixture. Feel free to add more pigment or dye if you want more vibrant chalk.

Think about colors you would like for your final mural piece. You can mix colors together (yellow and red make orange, etc.) Experiment!

If you want to make more than one color out of this amount of egg shells, you can mix everything up without the pigment, divide evenly and then add your pigment or dye to that mixture and mix evenly.

**Step 4:** Now it is time to form the chalk pieces. You have the choice to roll them into cylindrical pieces of chalk or to place them in molds, such as ice cube trays or soap molds. If you are using molds, silicone molds and trays work best for removal of the chalk.

If you would like to roll the chalk into pieces, you can spoon the mixture onto wax paper/parchment paper or newspaper about a half inch from the edge of the paper parallel to the edge length wise and start rolling it into a tube of the desired size. With your hands or on a flat surface. Let dry on side.

Another option is to use paper towel or toilet paper rolls. You can cut the tube long ways so that you can reshape the tube into a smaller one. Then you can tape it together and cut it half short ways so you can get multiple pieces of chalk molded. If you want to ensure less stick, line the tubes with wax paper. You can shape it into a smaller tube than the opening of the paper towel roll you resized, then insert it and let go, it should expand inside to the size of the mold. It can be taped from the inside to the outside with scotch tape to keep in place. Place duct tape covering the bottom. Then you can pour the mixture inside of these tube molds. Let dry upright. Let the chalk dry for 3 days.

**Kid's Reflection:** Talk about your experience. What colors did you make? Did your chalk turn out well? What was fun? Would you do anything different next time?



Photo Credit:Forever Green Mom



Photo Credit: Forever Green Mom



Photo Credit:PBS Parents



Photo Credit: Wood Lark Blog

## PART TWO - CREATE THE MURAL

Now it's time to take your homemade chalk and create your own mural in your driveway or sidewalk. You can also take your chalk and participate in public art murals in different events. Just make sure you have permission.

**Resources/materials needed:** Chalk, sidewalk, driveway, pavement. Yard stick or string (if you are trying to make straight lines or a picture plane the work lives in.)

**Skills:** Cognitive, Motor, Hand-Eye Coordination, Sensory, Environmental Appreciation, Art Appreciation, Creativity

### DIRECTIONS:

**Step 1:** Pick your spot! If it is on your own property feel free to draw where ever you would like. If you are going to a public art event where they have sidewalk chalk drawing, register for a spot or find the free draw area. Use a broom to sweep away dirt and debris. Depending on the age group of the child drawing or if it is a teen or adult creating the artwork, you may want to draw out a picture plane (a rectangle that they mural will be enclosed by).

**Step 2:** Have a plan! Unless this is a small child's drawing, then immediacy is important for their process. Do you want a certain image? Are you drawing within a theme? What would you like the public to experience when they see your work? Would you like to draw a flower, mandala? Is text included? Is there an inspirational message you would like to convey? If so, draw up some sketches and decide on a design. Then transpose it onto your surface. You can divide the sketch into a grid and make a grid larger on the pavement and work with ratios and shapes.

**Step 3:** Start coloring in your mural. Have a reference photo if you are trying to make it realistic. If a child is drawing let them explore creatively and bring in whatever their intuition is telling them.

When the mural is starting to wash away, sweep up the chalk dust on a dry day and throw away to prevent as much going into the waterways as you can. Hope you had fun!

**Kid's Reflection:** Talk about your experience. How did your mural turn out? Did you see anybody enjoy your artwork on the street? What do you like about public art?

#### Resources:

[forevergreenmom.com/homemade-chalk-with-eggshells/](http://forevergreenmom.com/homemade-chalk-with-eggshells/)  
[www.thebengalpost.com/third-annual-sidewalk-chalk-art-festival-carlinville-set](http://www.thebengalpost.com/third-annual-sidewalk-chalk-art-festival-carlinville-set)  
[spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2020/04/10/chalk-art-spreading-positivity-through-communities](http://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2020/04/10/chalk-art-spreading-positivity-through-communities)



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Photo Credit:Jefferson County Public Library



Photo Credit:WSYX



Photo Credit: Bulb

[woodlarkblog.com/diy-natural-chalk/](http://woodlarkblog.com/diy-natural-chalk/)  
[abc6onyourside.com/good-day-columbus/gallery/columbus-arts-fest-in-place-chalk-art-challenge](http://abc6onyourside.com/good-day-columbus/gallery/columbus-arts-fest-in-place-chalk-art-challenge)