



Chalk^{the}State

ACTIVITY GUIDE

YOUR
CHALK
HERE





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THE BEST CANVAS IS A BLANK SIDEWALK

We invite you to join the Chalk the State movement. Whether your chalk art will be fun and whimsical. Or inspirational and meaningful. Or influential and impactful. Whether you're a trained artist or just someone who enjoys being creative, we want you to get your message out by covering your sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots with chalk art to share with your neighbors, friends, and family. Help color the state with the creative energy of Wisconsin one sidewalk at a time.

CHALK THE STATE

Join us July 25–26 to create outdoor chalk art, take a picture, post it to social media, and tag [#chalkthestate](#).



facebook.com/chalkthestate



DO IT YOURSELF (DIY) CHALK RECIPES

While you can purchase sidewalk chalk, it's pretty easy to make at home. On the next few pages you'll find several "recipes" for DIY chalk. Don't forget to plan ahead, some recipes take a few days before you can use it.



Important! Do not put Plaster of Paris down your drain! It could harden in your pipes and cause damage. Only dispose of Plaster of Paris in your trashcan.

SIDEWALK CHALK

MATERIALS

Toilet paper tubes, or paper towel tubes cut in half
Scissors
Duct tape
Small bucket or disposable container to make the recipe
Wax paper
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup warm water
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups Plaster of Paris
2-3 tablespoons tempera paint
Paper bag or a “mess mat”
This recipe makes about three tubes of sidewalk chalk.

DIRECTIONS

1. Cover one end of each tube with duct tape. This will help keep the chalk material inside of the tube.
2. For each tube, cut a piece of wax paper into a 6” X 6” piece. Roll each piece of wax paper loosely and insert it into a tube so as to effectively line the tubes. The top of the paper will be higher than the end of the tube. The wax paper will keep the chalk mixture from sticking to the cardboard. Eventually the liner will be peeled off.
3. Plaster of Paris is a white powder that, when mixed with water, forms a paste that gets very hard once dry. Pour the warm water into your bucket. Sprinkle the Plaster of Paris over the water and carefully stir the mixture with a plastic spoon. After about 20-30 minutes, the Plaster of Paris will start to harden, so work quickly.
4. Pour the tempera paint into the Plaster of Paris mixture and stir until it is mixed thoroughly. Add more paint if you want a brighter color. If you want to make a variety of colors of chalk, spoon about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of Plaster of Paris into separate containers and mix different tempera paint colors into each.
5. Stand each tube with the tape side down on a cookie sheet, flat baking dish, or box lid to make the project easier to transport to a drying location. Pour or spoon the colored Plaster of Paris mixture into the wax paper-lined tubes. Lightly tap the sides of the tubes to release the air bubbles. This will prevent holes from forming in your chalk.
6. After pouring all of one color into the tubes, start another color. When done, trim the excess wax paper so that it is closer to the cardboard tube. Transport all tubes to a room where they can remain undisturbed. It will take three days for the chalk to dry.
7. On the third day, peel off the duct tape, so that the underside can dry. When the chalk is all dry, peel off the paper tubes and wax paper. The chalk is ready!

Recipe from PBS Kids for Parents



SIDEWALK CHALK “POPS”

MATERIALS

Plaster of Paris
Tempera paint (neon works best)
Silicone pop mold
Wood craft sticks
Plastic cups and spoons
Cold water
Scissors
Measuring cups

DIRECTIONS

1. Begin by cutting down your craft sticks to about 3” long.
2. You will need one plastic cup for each color you wish to make. Since my mold has eight spaces, we decided to mix eight different colors.
3. Fill each plastic cup with 1/3 cup cold water.
4. Add 2 Tablespoons of tempera paint to each plastic cup. We measured the first one then just eyeballed the rest. Since my paint set only had six colors, we created the purple (pink+blue) and aqua (green+blue) myself.
5. Use your plastic spoons to gently stir the water and paint together. Don’t worry if it remains a little chunky or separated—it will smooth out in the next step.
6. Add 2/3 cup Plaster of Paris to each plastic cup. This is where it got messy and WE learned my cups were a little too small.
7. Stir until thoroughly combined. Ideally, your mixture will have the consistency of thin yogurt.
8. Carefully pour your colors into the silicone mold. Gently tap the mold on your work surface to release any air bubbles.
9. After two minutes, the plaster will begin to firm up. Insert your craft sticks (cut side down) into the middle of the chalk “pops.” They should be easy to place without having to push hard or hold them up.
10. Setting these out in the hot sun is a great way to cure them quickly. After an hour, you will be able to carefully remove them from the mold. Leave them in the sun to continue drying.

THINGS TO NOTE

- Do not put Plaster of Paris down your drain! It will harden in your pipes and cause damage.
 - This can be messy. We would recommend doing it outside and using larger plastic cups than WE did!
- The following measurements were enough for my specific Wilton Brownie Pop Mold. You may have to adjust your volumes for different silicone molds.
- Most sources recommend waiting 24 hours for the plaster to fully cure.
- The wood sticks made it easy for little hands to hold the “pops” without scraping their knuckles on the sidewalk.

Recipe from Project Nursery written by Grey House Harbor





SIDEWALK CHALK PAINT

MATERIALS

1/2 cup Cornstarch
2/3 cup Water
Food Coloring

DIRECTIONS

1. Mix together the water and cornstarch, and stir until the cornstarch dissolves. Our chalk paint recipe generally calls for a 1:1 ratio of cornstarch and water, but since we were painting on the sidewalk instead of paper, we incorporated just a bit more water and found that we liked it even better. We were able to paint longer brushstrokes without needing to reload the paintbrush with paint, which is always great for younger kids.
2. Divide the paint mixture into the wells of a muffin tin or similar painting tray, and add food coloring to achieve the desired colors – note that the colors will dry much lighter on the sidewalk than they appear in the tin!

THINGS TO NOTE

- Large kid paintbrushes work best, but any paintbrush will do!
- We didn't have any problems with staining or clean up (our paint hosed cleanly away and easily washed off of the children with soap and water), but we cannot guarantee that the food coloring might not stain, especially if you have light or very porous concrete. Please use at your own discretion.

Recipe from Happiness is Homemade by Heidi Kundin



SIDEWALK CHALK ICE

MATERIALS

Ice Cube Tray
Mini Popsicle Sticks
Cheese Grater
Freezer
1-piece sidewalk chalk
2 tbsp cornstarch
4 tbsp water

DIRECTIONS

1. Start by grating a sidewalk chalk piece into a measuring cup that pours. Use a small grater if you can so that you can grate directly into the cup. If you don't have a small grater, then grate into a larger bowl and then transfer to a pouring cup. We used about half a sidewalk chalk piece per color.
2. Add 2 tablespoons of cornstarch into the measuring cup
3. Add Cornstarch for Ice Painting
4. Add 4 tablespoons of water.
5. Mix with a whisk.
6. Pour the mixture into an ice cube tray or small plastic container.
7. Pour into Ice Cube Tray
8. Repeat for each color you'd like to make. Double or triple the recipe to make a larger batch. This recipe will fill 2-3 ice cubes.
9. Add mini popsicle sticks into the ice cube trays. You can lean them to one side to keep them standing up.
10. Freeze.
11. Once frozen, let the ice cube tray sit out for a few minutes so that you can easily pull the paintsicles out.

THINGS TO NOTE

This recipe will fill up 2-3 small ice cubes in a tray. If you want more of one color, double or triple the recipe.

Staining:

- We suggest a high-pressure spray hose be ready to rinse off when you're done. Do not leave it sitting out in the hot sun for too long. We suggest testing the chalk ice in an inconspicuous area and then try washing it away with water. This sidewalk ice chalk should rinse off easily with regular water like sidewalk chalk does. However, it's best to rinse it off while still wet once you are done with the activity.
- Wet your sidewalk before you paint, this will allow the paint to glide better on the surface when painting. It also makes clean-up much easier!
- This ice paint will need to be used the same day. Once you take it out of the freezer, it will start to melt and the popsicle sticks may start to separate. If you want to make a large batch, use a few colors at a time and keep the rest in the freezer for another day.

Recipe from The Best Ideas for Kids written by author of the kid's craft book, Fun & Easy Crafting with Recycled Materials, Kim McLeod



CHALK ART IDEAS



INTERACTIVE CHALK ART

Interactive Chalk Art is a fun way to make your sidewalk an activity zone for anyone walking by or on your driveway for friends and family to play together.

FAMILY FRIENDLY
(Ideal for driveway)

TIC-TAC-TOE

4 SQUARE COURT

TWISTER

BULLS-EYE BAG TOSS

SPECIAL WALK ZONES
(Hop like a bunny, silly walk, gallop like a horse)

PASSERBY FRIENDLY

HOPSCOTCH

OBSTACLE MAZE



CHALK CHEER

Spread positivity through quotes or phrases

“UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

– The Lorax, Dr. Seuss

“We all can dance,” he said, “if we find the music that we love.”

– Giraffes Can’t Dance, Giles Andreae

“Believing takes practice.”

– A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L’Engle

“I love you right up to the moon—and back.”

– Guess How Much I Love You
by Sam McBratney

“If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.”

– The Twits by Roald Dahl

HAPPY WORDS OR SHORT PHRASES

SMILE!

BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER!

BE HAPPY

CHOOSE HAPPINESS

YOU ARE AWESOME!

BE THE CHANGE

ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS

LET’S CREATE ART

CREATE YOUR OWN
SUNSHINE

BE THE REASON SOMEONE
SMILES TODAY

**USE GOOGLE TO FIND
INSPIRATION. HERE ARE
SOME PHRASES TO SEARCH:**

CHALK ART IDEAS

INTERACTIVE CHALK ART

ACTIVISM CHALK ART

EASY CHALK ART DRAWINGS



DRAWING INSPIRATION

CHALK MOSAIC / STAINED GLASS CHALK

1. Find a spot on the sidewalk or driveway and design a block using tape to create different shapes and designs. Get creative!
2. Color in the taped sections with chalk.
3. Remove the tape to see the finished result.

TRACING SHAPES

People or Items

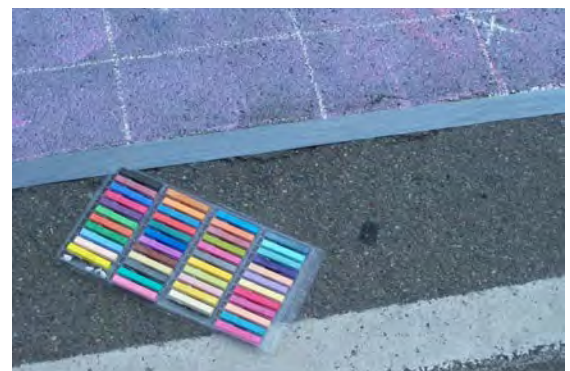
- Have a family member lie down on the ground and trace them in chalk or you can use a toy or nature

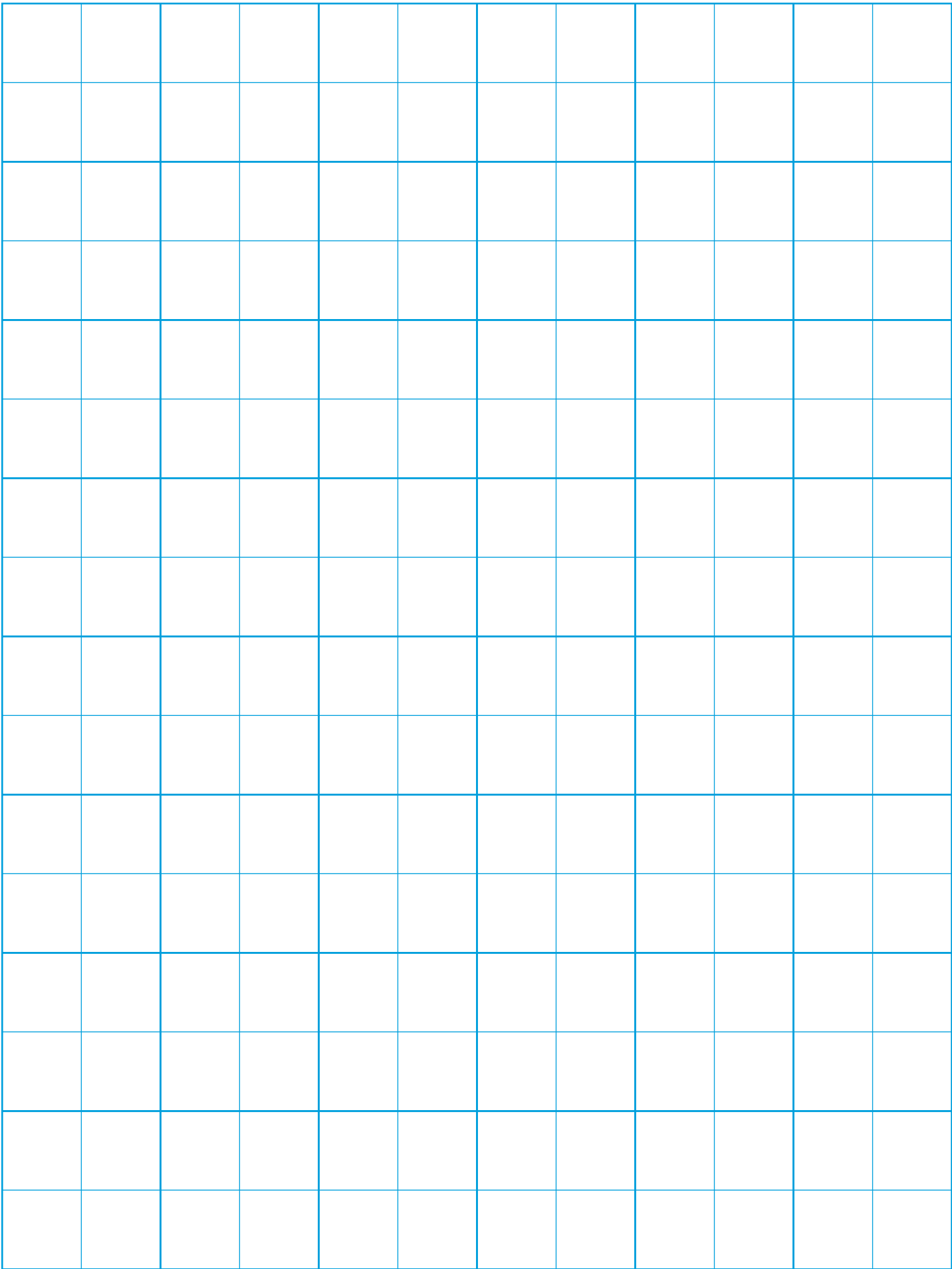
Using shadows

- Place an object, toy, person, or use surrounding nature and make sure the item/person you are using is in a sunny spot and trace its shadow

USING A GRID

1. Select the picture you want to enlarge onto the sidewalk
2. Place a ruler along the top edge of the picture
3. Make a small mark with a pencil at every inch
4. Mark the bottom edge of the picture the same way.
Make sure you have the same number of marks at the top and bottom of the picture.
5. Connect each pencil mark at the top of the picture with a corresponding mark at the bottom using a ruler. This will make parallel lines over the picture.
6. Measure and mark every inch along the side edges of the picture
7. Connect the marks on each side. Your picture is now covered with squares called a grid.
8. Calculate how much larger you need to make your picture and how large you need to make squares on a second grid on the sidewalk.
9. For example, an easy way to turn a 1-inch by 1-inch grid into a much larger image, the second grid can be 12-inches by 12-inches (1 foot x 1 foot)
10. Draw a second grid with chalk onto the sidewalk. You may need to use a yardstick or measuring tape to make a larger grid
11. Copy the picture from the first grid, square by square, by drawing it on the new, larger grid.
 - The important thing to remember when drawing grids is that they must have a 1:1 ratio. This is very important (otherwise your drawing will be distorted)! A 1:1 ratio means that you will have the same number of lines on your canvas as you will on your reference photo, and that in both cases, the lines must be equally spaced apart (in perfect squares).





CHALK TIPS & TRICKS

CHALK RESPONSIBLY

- Follow the law. Check with your local authorities to find out if chalk art is permitted in your area.
- Chalk only on your property. Be sure to get permission before chalking on any property that is not yours including neighboring sidewalks, any public property, or parking lots.
- Respect your neighbors. Consider others who will enjoy your art. If an 8-year old shouldn't read it, don't write or draw it.
- Respect the environment. Use eco-friendly chalk or water-based tempera paints. Avoid chalking within 50-feet of water sources such as lakes, rivers, and streams.

STAY SAFE & HEALTHY

- Don't overlook using sunscreen (especially on the back of your hands and neck).
- Protect your knees. Consider using knee pads or kneeling mats (often can be found in the gardening section of a local hardware store)
- Drink water and stay hydrated

TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME CHALKERS

- Consider using one object as the focal point of your artwork – a face, a frog, etc. Small details are difficult to manage on a rough surface. Think BIG & DRAMATIC.
- The more you work with chalk on concrete, the more comfortable you will become. Practice on the driveway at home.

SELECTING YOUR CHALK

- Use either Soft Pastels or Chalk Pastels
 - Do not use white board chalk, Oil Pastels or Hard Pastels.
 - Chalk pastels are great for youth and they tend to wash away better from the natural elements.
 - *Important note about sidewalk chalk:* Sidewalk chalk is designed to be washable but can sometimes stain newer driveways or sidewalks if the surface still has open surface pores in the concrete which can absorb the colorants. Always read the packaging of the sidewalk chalk you purchase.



- Use water-based tempera paint on asphalt or parking lots. It's a good base so that the surface is easier to work with
- “Tempera” is temporary and is similar to liquid chalk since it can be washable. It is paint without the permanent qualities of acrylic paint.
 - Chalk Responsibly: Some places do not allow you to use a tempera base, so it is always best to check with your local guidelines

CHALK LIKE A PROFESSIONAL (AND USE LESS CHALK)

- Often times you won't need to use as much chalk as you think
 - To stretch the amount of chalk used, use a blending tool
 - Most chalk artists will cut apart pool noodles and use them to blend. Blend in a circular motion. It's great for covering large areas.
- Use chalk sparingly. Build up your layers, starting with a very light layer on the bottom.
 - Some artists prefer to lay all of their undertones first. Some prefer to work top to bottom. We recommend outlining all of your major elements first.



ABOUT MOWA

The Museum of Wisconsin Art explores the art and culture of Wisconsin. Founded in 1961, MOWA is one of the top museums of regional art in the United States, with over 5,000 works of contemporary and historic art by more than 350 artists.

The building's modern wedge shape is a striking sight on the west bend of the Milwaukee River and is the centerpiece of the museum's four-acre campus. With 18 rotating exhibitions and over 175 programs—from talks and tours to making art and meeting artists—MOWA attracts nearly 200,000 visitors annually. There is always something new to explore at MOWA.

