



Safety Tips for Using Clay at Home

When it is wet, clay is not a hazard, but when it dries out, clay particles can become airborne and can be breathed in. These flat particles of silica get lodged in your lungs and don't leave. Since hand building doesn't produce as much of a mess as throwing it can be safely enjoyed at home, but please follow these tips:

Mind the Moisture (this helps to keep the mess down).

- Don't let your clay dry out! It gets hard to work with, parts won't attach well, and it quickly creates the dangerous type of dust described above.
- You also don't want your clay to get too wet, sticky, or sloppy because it turns into an even bigger mess (but at least it isn't dusty)
- A spray bottle of water can help keep your work from drying too fast.
- Put scraps wrapped in plastic and close it up so they stay soft and workable.

Keep your clay in one area so it's easier to clean and contain.

- The best space is somewhere with a smooth surface that is easy to wipe down, this includes the floor beneath your workspace.
- Put down newspaper to protect the surface & make clean up a breeze.
- This grey clay does not stain, but clay dust and little bits are harder to thoroughly clean off of carpet and fabric. Work over a smooth surface.

Always clean wet.

- Use a clean damp sponge, wet wipes or damp paper towels to clean your table and tools.
- If clay dry falls to the floor, gently drag it into a pile with a damp paper towel. Throw away.

Keep clay out of your sink!

- If you need to wash off more than just a little dust off your hands, use a bucket or large bowl of water to rinse your hands and tools before washing them in the sink. Keep the bucket or bowl around until you are done with your projects. Pour down the toilet or in the yard.

Don't eat it.

- You can get creative with what can be used as a clay tool - forks and kitchen tools work great, but clean it before you eat with it again. Eating clay won't kill you, but it probably won't taste good.

Tools From Around the House

- ❖ **Smooth Work Surface and Transportation Board**
 - An old cutting board, a smooth scrap of wood, stiff cardboard, a tupperware or the cover of an old binder make great surfaces to work on
 - They can also be used to store and move your project back to our studio
 - Newspaper makes for easy clean up and prevents clay from sticking to work surfaces.
- ❖ **Moisture control:** A damp new sponge, a spray bottle that can mist, or a wet paint brush.
- ❖ **Wrapping plastic:** The bag your clay came in, a new trash bag, or dry cleaner bags. An airtight plastic container, like tupperware, works too.
- ❖ **Texture Makers:** A dull and sharp pencil to draw details, a pen cap, tooth picks, and an old comb.
- ❖ **Stamps:** Old buttons, costume jewelry, pen cap, bottle cap, a golf ball, or a lego! Check out our instagram post about making your own stamps.
- ❖ **Rolling pin:** If you don't have a rolling pin, wooden dowel, or a pvc pipe, wrap a bottle with straight sides in newspaper.
- ❖ **Cutting:** Exacto knives and paring knives are great for adults, a butter knife or plastic knife works just fine for kids
- ❖ **Smoothing tool:** Cake decorating tools or an old plastic gift card. Soft paint brushes can be used to smooth excess slip around seams

