

Choosing the Right Polymer Clay for Your Project



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Intro

Polymer clay is an extremely versatile medium that offers many unique benefits. There are different types of polymer clay for different applications, and the type you use will affect how your project turns out. This guide will help explain the different types of polymer clay so you can choose the best material for your project every time.

8 Reasons to Use Polymer Clay

Polymer clay is a blend of non-toxic synthetic material with unique benefits. Here's why crafters, art teachers, professional artists and jewelry-makers choose polymer clay over other types of clay:

- 1. Maintains color:** When you bake your polymer clay creations correctly, they will come out looking just as vibrant as they went in.
- 2. Doesn't dry out:** Polymer clay stays soft and pliable until you cure it in the oven, so you can take as long as you want to perfect your creation.
- 3. Lasts for years:** Polymer clay will last for years in a cool, dry storage space out of direct sunlight.
- 4. Doesn't shrink or expand:** Polymer clay maintains its size during baking, so it comes out looking how you made it.
- 5. Hardens in the oven:** Unlike natural clay that has to be fired in an extremely hot kiln, polymer clay cures in a home oven or toaster oven.
- 6. Comes in many colors:** Polymer clay comes in dozens of colors and finishes, so you can achieve the look you want without glazes or paints.
- 7. Cures strong and durable:** Polymer clay maintains some flexibility after curing, making it exceptionally strong.

8. Easy to clean up: Clean up after working with polymer clay is quick and easy. Simply wash your hands, tools and work space with a mild soap and water or baby wipes – just be mindful that you work with clay on an appropriate surface protectant to avoid any staining.

How to Choose Polymer Clay

One of the benefits of polymer clay is that it comes in many different colors, textures and consistencies for different applications. With so much versatility, you have endless options to choose from for whatever project you're working on. Here are important factors to consider to help you navigate the clay aisle:

1. Brand

There are usually several different brands of polymer clay to choose from at the craft store. However, not all brands of polymer clay are created equal. You can count on Sculpey for high-quality polymer clay products. We carry a range of options for any project you can imagine.

2. Color

Polymer clay comes in many different colors and finishes, including metallic, glitter and stone. Some types of polymer clay are available in more colors than others. If you don't find the exact color you want, you can also paint and varnish your creation after you've baked it.

3. Consistency

The consistency of polymer clay ranges from super pliable to more dense, depending on the formula. Look for a polymer clay with a firmness that fits your needs. For example, choose a soft consistency for children so it's easier for their small hands to mix and shape the clay. If your project calls for a denser clay, consider conditioning it before use to make it easier to handle – you can do this by working it in your hands or with a conditioner machine or pasta roller.

4. Strength

Polymer clay is available in different formulas that harden to various levels of strength and durability. For example, Sculpey Soufflé™ is still flexible after baking, while Sculpey III® is more rigid.

5. Application

Some types of clay are easier to mold and manipulate than others. When you're choosing a polymer clay, think about the skill level of the person using it and the project they plan to make.

6. Quantity

Different types of clay are sold in various quantities. Choose a product that's sold in the quantity that you need. Remember, it's better to have too much than to end up halfway through your project and run out. For large or batch projects, it may be more affordable to purchase a polymer clay available in bulk packages.

What You'll Learn in This Guide

If you're a passionate clayer, this guide will help expand your knowledge of polymer clay and how to choose the best medium for your creations. We'll review the different Sculpey products with project ideas and bonus tips for working with polymer clay. This guide is an excellent resource for beginner to advanced crafters who want to learn more about polymer clay and explore new project ideas.



Polymer clay comes in a variety of colors, textures and consistencies for different projects. For example, lightweight clay is ideal for jewelry, while firm clay is best for sculpting. Understanding the differences between types of polymer clay will help you choose the right products to use. In this chapter, we'll describe each type of Sculpey polymer clay and when to use them.

Types of Sculpey Polymer Clay

Explore all of the different types of polymer clay you can use to bring your ideas to life:

1. Original Sculpey

Original Sculpey® is extremely versatile for kids, art students and beginner sculptors. It's soft and easy to condition before baking and hard enough to sand and carve after baking. Original Sculpey® has the look and feel of ceramic clay with the convenience of polymer clay.

This product has a matte finish and comes in white, granite and terra cotta. You can add more color by painting Original Sculpey® after it's cured in the oven. Original Sculpey® is an affordable option you can purchase in bulk for classrooms or crafting events.

2. Sculpey III

Sculpey III® is a multipurpose formula for kids, beginners and hobbyists. It's really easy to work with and maintains sculpted details. Sculpey III® bakes to a matte finish that you can paint and glaze. You can use this polymer clay to make decorations, jewelry, figurines and lots of other projects.

Sculpey III® comes in 44 unique colors, including bright, muted and metallic shades. You can purchase Sculpey III® individually or in budget-friendly multipacks.

3. Sculpey Premo

Sculpey Premo™ has a satin-like finish and comes in the largest selection of 55 shades, including bold and neutral colors, glitters, metallics, granites and fluorescents. This formula was created for artists and frequent clay users for more advanced projects. It holds fine details and provides premium strength and flexibility after baking. Sculpey Premo™ is the best polymer clay for techniques like caning, mokume-gane and skinner blends. You can use it to make jewelry, home decor, faux stones and many other beautiful creations.

4. Sculpey Souffle

Sculpey Souffle™ is lightweight, pliable and cures to a suede-like finish. The firm consistency takes texture beautifully, maintains clean lines and doesn't drag when sliced. Sculpey Souffle™ is the best polymer clay for jewelry and home decor. It comes in 22 fashionable colors.

This product is best for frequent clayers and professional artists. It's strong, self-supporting and will not crack in the oven. Hardened Sculpey Souffle™ is still flexible enough to cut and sew after baking. It's also the best clay to use with stamps, alcohol markers and inks.

5. Bake Shop

Sculpey Bake Shop® polymer clay was designed with kids in mind. It's super soft and easy to shape for beginners and comes in 14 vibrant colors. Sculpey Bake Shop® also comes in eraser, glow-in-the-dark and bendy varieties for extra fun!

This product is perfect for small figurines, school projects, holiday crafts and simple jewelry. All polymer clay is safe and non-toxic, which is especially important for children. Sculpey Bake Shop® bakes to a matte finish children can decorate with acrylic paint and polymer glaze.

6. Liquid Sculpey

Liquid Sculpey® is a liquid version of polyform clay that comes in handy for many different projects. It's geared more toward professional artists and advanced crafters. This product cures perfectly in silicone molds and is great for image transfers.

Liquid Sculpey® comes in 17 unique colors and three finishes, including translucent, matte and metallic. You can customize any color by mixing in alcohol-based ink, glitter or confetti. Some people use Liquid Sculpey® to make window clings, paint designs on clay, attach clay pieces and glaze finished projects. You can purchase Liquid Sculpey® in multipacks for an affordable price.

7. Super Sculpey

Super Sculpey® is the best polymer clay for sculpting. This formula was designed with professional sculptors and model makers in mind. It's the perfect blend of soft yet firm for fine tooling and detailing. Super Sculpey® is easy to condition with none of the blurring and blending that can happen with softer clays. It comes in gray and semi-translucent beige with a finish that resembles the look of skin. Hardened Super Sculpey® is easy to paint, carve or sand for added detail.

Super Sculpey

Super Sculpey® is easy to condition with none of the blurring and blending that can happen with softer clays.



Super Sculpey® is available in medium and firm consistencies. It also comes in the following varieties:

- **Super Sculpey Living Doll™:** Super Sculpey Living Doll™ is the best polymer clay for dolls and detailed figurines. It blends easily to resemble the smooth look of flesh.
- **Super Sculpey Ultralight:** This product offers the same benefits as the original Super Sculpey® in a lightweight formula. It's great for jewelry, ornaments and armatures for large projects. It's the lightest Sculpey polymer clay on the market.

Find the Best Type of Polymer Clay With Sculpey

At Sculpey, we have polymer clay for any project you can imagine! We offer different colors and formulas for all ages, skill levels and applications. Shop our selection of polymer clay products for your next project today!





Chapter 2

Polymer Clay Projects

Polymer clay is extremely versatile and easy to work with for kids and experienced crafters. There are endless ways to use polymer clay to make crafts, gifts or products to sell. In this chapter, we've compiled a comprehensive list of polymer clay project ideas for all ages and skill levels.

30 Project Ideas With Polymer Clay

Check out these polymer clay project ideas with tools, materials and instructions to inspire your next creation.

Fun Polymer Clay Projects

You'll have a blast making these fun projects with polymer clay:

1. Kawaii Floral Turtle

What's more fun than a smiling turtle with a shell made of flowers? This project uses beginner clay techniques like shaping and connecting polymer clay. All you need to create a friendly floral turtle is:

- Knife or multipurpose tool
- Small paintbrush
- Sculpey III® White 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Black 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Blue 2 oz

- Sculpey III® Yellow 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Red 2 oz
- Sculpey® Gloss Glaze 1 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own kawaii floral turtle.

2. Happy Little Donut

Create an adorable little donut that looks good enough to eat! This project is super quick and fun for kids with basic shaping skills. Here's what you need to create a mini donut:

- Ball ended tool
- Sculpey Bake Shop® White 2 oz
- Sculpey Bake Shop® Yellow 2 oz
- Sculpey Bake Shop® Pink 2 oz
- Sculpey Bake Shop® Brown 2 oz
- Sculpey Bake Shop® Black 2 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own happy little donut.

3. Cute Green Monster

Cute Green Monster

This kid-friendly project requires slightly more advanced molding and construction skills.



You can build a silly clay monster in less than one hour. This kid-friendly project requires slightly more advanced molding and construction skills. You'll need the following tools and materials:

- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Scissors
- Blunt point tool
- Sculpey III® Spring Green 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Leaf Green 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Glow In The Dark 2 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own cute green monster.

4. Custom Croc Charms

Personalize your Croc shoes with homemade polyform clay charms! You can make your custom charms as simple or advanced as you want. Here's what you need to get started:

- Blank buttons for crocs
- Silicone ice cube or candy-making trays
- Silicone glue or instant drying glue
- Sculpey Bake Shop® in the colors of your choice

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own custom croc charms.

5. Avocado Toast Earrings

If you love avocado toast, you'll love these avocado toast earrings even more! This craft is great for older kids and adults with more advanced crafting skills. Here's what you need to make these cute mismatched earrings:

- Old toothbrush
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller

- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Gold-toned or silver-toned eye pins
- Gold-toned or silver-toned ear wires
- Sculpey Bake Shop® Multipack 13 pc

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own avocado toast earrings.

Simple Polymer Clay Projects

These polymer clay projects for beginners are quick and easy to make with only a few tools and materials:

1. Bubble Candle Holder

Making a bubble candle holder is extremely easy and only requires a few materials. You can use any combination of colors you like to match your decor. Here's what you'll need for this project:

- Oven-Bake Clay Adhesive 2 oz
- Small LED candle
- Sculpey III® in the colors of your choice



Bubble Candle Holder

You can use any combination of colors you like to match your decor.

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own bubble candle holder.

2. Colorful Bead Keychain

A colorful bead keychain is simple to create and makes a great gift. You can make the beads in any color to match your purse or favorite sports team. To get started, you'll need:

- Toothpicks
- Aluminum foil
- String or fishing line
- Keyring
- Sculpey Bake Shop® in the colors of your choice

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own colorful bead keychain.

3. Chunky Ring Set

Create a custom set of chunky rings in less than one hour. Anyone can make this craft with only a few supplies. Here's what you'll need to make three rings:

- Metal circle cutter that fits around your finger
- Cellophane tape
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Sculpey Premo™ or Sculpey Soufflé™ in the colors of your choice
- Heat set crystals in the color of your choice (optional)

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own chunky ring set.

4. Sparkly Striped Bracelet

This simple bracelet will look fabulous wrapped around your wrist! You can make one to match every outfit. Here's what you'll need to make a stylish striped cuff:

- Metal or glass bottle that is the width of your wrist
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Premo™ in the colors of your choice

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own sparkly striped bracelet.

5. Kitten Window Cling

Kitten window clings are the purrfect craft for kids. This craft is extremely quick and easy to make with a few supplies. You'll need the following materials to get started:

- Glass plate
- Sculpey Bake Shop® Modeling Tools 4 pc
- Liquid Sculpey® Multipack - Primary
- Liquid Sculpey® White 1 oz
- Liquid Sculpey® Black 1 oz
- Printed kitten image (optional)

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own kitten window cling.

Useful Polymer Clay Projects

Useful polymer clay projects make excellent gifts



Useful polymer clay projects make excellent gifts. Here are some polymer clay projects you can use:

1. Round Candle Votive

Creating a round candle votive is a simple and affordable way to customize your tablescape. This project is quick and easy for people of all ages and skill levels. Here's what you'll need:

- Paper towels
- Silicone tea light mold
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Sculpey Tools™ Dual End Detail Tools
- Liquid Sculpey® 1 oz in the color of your choice

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own round candle votive.

2. Tropical Trinket Tray

Trinket trays always come in handy for catching keys and jewelry. You can simplify this project as much as you want to accommodate crafters of different skill levels. Here's what you'll need to make a beautiful two-toned tray:

- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Conditioning Machine
- Sculpey Tools™ Etch 'n Pearl
- Sculpey Souffle™ Racing Green 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Guava 1.7 oz
- Sculpey® Gloss Glaze 1 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own tropical trinket tray.



Pressed Flower Dish

This project looks like it took a lot of time and effort, but it's pretty simple to make.

3. Pressed Flower Dish

A pressed flower jewelry dish is beautiful and functional. This project looks like it took a lot of time and effort, but it's pretty simple to make. You need the following tools and materials for this craft:

- Pressed flowers in the color of your choice
- Tweezers
- Gold paint or mica powder (optional)
- Paintbrush
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Dual End Detail Tools
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Latte 7 oz
- Sculpey® Satin Glaze 1 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own pressed flower dish.

4. Rustic Southwestern Planter

Make this rustic bowl to give your home a touch of southwestern flair. The larger scale of this project requires intermediate to advanced skills. You will need:

- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Conditioning Machine
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Blades

- Sculpey Premo™ Terra Cotta 2 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Cabernet 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Turquoise Granite 2 oz
- Faux plant or air plant (optional)

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own rustic southwestern planter.

5. Marbled Wall Vase

A marbled wall vase with a faux plant will add style and sophistication to your space. This project is for experienced crafters with more advanced skills. The supplies you need to create this project include:

- Gold leaf flakes
- Ceramic geometric planter
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Conditioning Machine
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Citron 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ White 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Black 2 oz
- Liquid Sculpey® Translucent
- Gloss varnish (optional)
- Faux plant or air plant (optional)

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own marbled wall vase.

Festive Polymer Clay Projects

Try these festive polymer clay projects during the holiday season:

1. Easter Bunny Head

This adorable bunny is the perfect Easter craft for children. This quick and easy project takes

only 45 minutes. Here are the supplies you'll need:

- Black permanent marker
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Sculpey III® Berry 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Peach 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Violet 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Lemonade 2 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own easter bunny head.

2. Silly Halloween Gnome

What's more festive than a glow-in-the-dark Halloween gnome? These gnomes are so cute and simple to make. All you need for this spooky project is:

- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Sculpey III® Black Glitter 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Beige 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Purple 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Glow In The Dark 2 oz
- Sculpey® III Just Orange 2 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own silly Halloween gnome.

3. Hot Chocolate Ornament

This endearing ornament is the perfect project for art students to make before winter break. You or your child can hang it on the tree for years to come. Here's what you'll need:

- Sculpey Tools™ Mini Metal Cutters: Geometric, 12 pc
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Blades

- Sculpey Tools™ 5-in-1 Clay Tool
- Super Sculpey Ultralight
- Sculpey III® Black 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Yellow 2 oz
- Sculpey® III 2 oz Emerald
- Sculpey III® Red Hot Red 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Ballerina 2 oz
- Sculpey® III Just Orange 2 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own hot chocolate ornament.

4. Festive Snow Globe

A homemade snow globe is a beautiful and fun way to celebrate the winter season. You can make this craft as simple or complicated as you want. To make this jolly craft, you'll need:

- Mason jar with lid
- Faux snow or glitter flakes
- Super glue
- Scissors
- Toothpick
- Acrylic paint
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Sculpey III® 30 Color Sampler
- Sculpey® Gloss Glaze 1 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own festive snow globe.

5. Cheerful Holiday Gnome

This cheerful red and green gnome is simply too cute. Anyone can make this adorable decoration for the holidays! All you need for this project is:

Cheerful Holiday Gnome

This cheerful red and green gnome is simply too cute. Anyone can make this adorable decoration for the holidays!



- White, black, red, green and flesh color acrylic paints
- Paintbrush
- Sculpey Tools™ 5-in-1 Clay Tool
- Original Sculpey® 1.75 lb White

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own cheerful holiday gnome.

Wearable Polymer Clay Projects

Wearable polymer clay projects make great merchandise for small businesses. Try these polymer clay crafts that you can wear:

1. Glass Chip Necklace

This jewelry-making project is easy enough for beginners, and the stunning glass chip pendant looks like it came from a department store. Making this necklace requires the following tools and materials:

- Multicolored glass chips
- Paper towels
- Glass baking surface
- Gold deep teardrop-shaped bezel
- 6 mm Gold tone jump ring
- 18" Gold chain with clasp
- Flat nose pliers

- Small sharp scissors
- Liquid Sculpey® Clear 2 oz
- Liquid Sculpey® Fuchsia 1 oz
- Heat gun (optional)

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own glass chip necklace.

2. Cinnamon Knotted Earrings

You can make these cinnamon-knotted earrings with very few tools and supplies. Although this project is simple, it requires some practice and skill to tie the knot without ripping the clay. All you need to make these timeless earrings is:

- Clay Extruder
- Two 7 mm jump rings
- Two ear wires
- Baking tray
- Silicone mat or clean cardboard
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Cinnamon 1.7 oz

Follow the instructions in this guide to create your own cinnamon-knotted earrings.

3. Eiffel Tower Earrings

Show your love of Paris with these dangling Eiffel Tower earrings. This project requires intermediate skills in cutting, shaping, connecting and detailing. You need the following supplies to make these earrings:

- Instant glue
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Sculpey Tools™ Dual End Detail Tools
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Igloo 1.7 oz

- Sculpey Soufflé™ Latte 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Robin's Egg 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Guava 1.7 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own Eiffel Tower earrings.

4. Spring Terrazzo Earrings

These trendy terrazzo earrings are the perfect accessory for spring. Anyone with experience making jewelry can do this project. Here's what you need to make these beautiful earrings:

- Four 8mm silver jump rings
- Two silver earring posts and backs
- Dangle drop earring cutters
- Super glue
- Cornstarch
- Needle nose pliers
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Conditioning Machine
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Citron 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Light Pink 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ White 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Gray Granite 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Copper 2 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own spring terrazzo earrings.

5. Sunglasses Jacket Pin

Create an adorable sunglasses pin for your favorite jacket or backpack. This project is really quick, fun and kid-friendly. You can swap out the colors to match your aesthetic. To make a sunglasses pin, you'll need:

- Paintbrush
- 2" Pin bar
- Silicone or instant dry glue
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Blades
- Sculpey Tools™ Mini Metal Cutters: Geometric, 12 pc
- Sculpey III® Candy Pink 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Spring Lilac 2 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own sunglasses jacket pin.

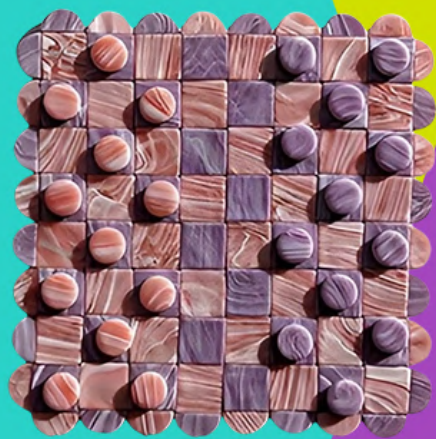
Advanced Polymer Clay Projects

Here are some complicated polymer clay projects for advanced crafters:

1. Checkers Board Game

Make your own one-of-a-kind checkers board game at home with polyform clay! With 24 pawns and an ornate game board, this project is intended for experienced crafters.

Here's what you need to make your own game of checkers:



**Make your own one-of-a-kind
checkers board game at
home with polyform clay!**

- Cardboard
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Conditioning Machine
- Super Glue or hot glue gun
- Sanding Drill or X-acto knife
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Blades
- Sculpey Tools™ Graduated Cutters: Circle, 6 pc
- Sculpey Tools™ Cutters: Square, 6 pc
- Sculpey Premo™ Blush 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Purple 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Ultramarine Blue Hue 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Purple Pearl 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Pearl 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Translucent 2 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Igloo 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Royalty 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Guava 1.7 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own checkers board game.

2. Orchid Trinket Box

This gorgeous trinket box would make the perfect gift for Mother's Day. This project is suited for advanced crafters who have experience mixing, cutting and texturizing clay. You'll need the following tools and supplies for this project:

- Wooden trinket box (woodpile 3")
- Wide-tooth comb
- Super Glue
- Clay Knife
- Paintbrush
- Tape measure
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Conditioning Machine
- Sculpey Tools™ Graduated Cutters: Tear Drop, 6 pc

- Sculpey Soufflé™ Wild Orchid 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Igloo 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Royalty 1.7 oz
- Acrylic paint and paintbrush (optional)

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own orchid trinket box.

3. Footed Planter Box

Transform an old spice box into an ornate planter. This design requires several layers of clay in different shapes with intricate detailing. To make this planter, you'll need the following:

- Small metal spice box
- Flat nose pliers
- Hammer
- Heavy-duty needle tool or small nail
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Conditioning Machine
- Sculpey Tools™ Mini Metal Cutters: Geometric, 12 pc
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Blades
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Sculpey Tools™ Dual End Detail Tools
- Sculpey Premo™ Berry Pearl 2 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Midnight Blue 1.7 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Ecru 2 oz
- Sculpey Soufflé™ Royalty 1.7 oz

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own footed planter box.

4. Elegant Butterfly Mobile

This butterfly mobile is a beautiful accent to any playroom, kid's bedroom or nursery. Creating the delicate butterflies and stringing them onto the mobile requires an intermediate to advanced skill level.

ced level of skill. You can make your own butterfly mobile with these supplies:

- 4.25" Circle cookie cutter
- 5.25" Circle cookie cutter
- Butterfly shaped cutters
- Four 3" x 5" index cards
- Fishing line
- Coordinating ribbon
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set
- Sculpey Tools™ Dual End Detail Tools
- Sculpey III® Berry 2 oz
- Sculpey III® White 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Princess Pearl 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Candy Pink 2 oz
- Sculpey III® Ballerina 2 oz
- Sculpey Premo™ Gold 2 oz
- Super Sculpey Ultralight

Follow the instructions in this project guide to create your own elegant butterfly mobile.

5. Trendy Waterless Vase

Create this trendy vase for your desk or shelf to add a touch of modern elegance. You can use it to display a small bouquet of dried flowers. Here's what you'll need for this craft:

- 4" X 3" Rectangle Cutter
- Sculpey Tools™ Graduated Cutters: Circle, 6 pc
- Sculpey Tools™ 8-Inch Acrylic Clay Roller
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Blades
- Sculpey Tools™ Clay Tool Starter Set



Chapter 3

Polymer Clay Tips

When you choose the right polymer clay for your project, it's extremely user-friendly. However, there are some key things you should know to make sure your project turns out exactly how you imagined. In this chapter, we'll go over some basic polymer clay tips to make crafting even more enjoyable.

Helpful Tips for Using Polymer Clay

Here are some helpful tips for polymer clay enthusiasts:

1. Choose High-Quality Clay

Do your research to find a high-quality polymer clay that is both easy to work with and durable after baking. Choosing a high-quality clay will ensure your project turns out the way you want and lasts for years to come.

2. Condition the Clay

Polymer clay is a lot easier to work with when you take the time to condition it before starting your project. You can condition small pieces of clay by massaging it with your hands. To quickly condition larger chunks of clay, place a heating pad or microwaveable rice bag over it for a few minutes. Heat softens polymer clay so it's easy to roll out and manipulate. You can also invest in a clay conditioning machine.

3. Use Unconventional Tools

Using materials from around the house can help you achieve unique textures and designs. You can use an old toothbrush, butter knife or plastic straw to add patterns and detail to the clay. Just keep in mind that you shouldn't eat with any silverware or kitchen utensils after you use them on polymer clay.

4. Protect Your Work Surface

The unbaked plasticizers in polymer clay can stain or damage work surfaces like a wooden table. Protect the surface under your clay by covering it with a silicone work mat or parchment paper. You can also work on top of a ceramic tile, metal baking sheet or oven-safe glass. This also protects the clay from rough textures on your work surface.

5. Store Clay in Plastic Wrap or Sandwich Bags

Though polymer clay will not dry out, it can get dusty if you leave it untouched for too long. We recommend storing your clay in a bag or container made of polypropylene (PP) plastic. You can easily identify PP plastic by looking for containers with the recycling symbol #5.

6. Use Foil to Conserve Clay

Filling your projects with aluminum foil or wire whenever possible helps keep them lightweight, lowers the baking time and conserves clay.

7. Bond Clay With Wire and Liquid Clay

For a long-lasting bond, use small pieces of metal wire to stick clay together and seal it with a few drops of Liquid Sculpey®.

8. Seal Paints and Finishes

If you paint or add mica powder to your baked polymer clay creation, it's best to seal in those details so they don't wear off over time. Sculpey® Satin Glaze and Sculpey® Gloss Glaze are formulated specifically for sealing baked polymer clay. These can also add visually interesting effects to your project to achieve a certain appearance.

Though nail polish and spray paint would seem like a creative way to paint or seal your polymer clay creations, they'll end up ruining your project.



9. Do Not Use Nail Polish or Spray Paint on Polymer Clay

Though nail polish and spray paint would seem like a creative way to paint or seal your polymer clay creations, they'll end up ruining your project. The solvents in nail polish and spray paint soften and dissolve polymer clay over time. For the best results, use only acrylic paints or glazes formulated for polymer clay.

10. Use Cornstarch

Cornstarch is a helpful tool when working with polymer clay. Experienced clayers dust their molds with cornstarch to prevent the polymer clay from sticking. You can also rub a little bit of cornstarch on your project to smooth it out and remove fingerprints. Covering your project with cornstarch before baking may also protect it from browning.

Polymer Clay Baking Tips

You bake polymer clay in a home oven or toaster oven to harden it. You can find detailed baking instructions and tips on our website and product packaging. Here are some bonus tips for baking polymer clay:

1. Follow the baking instructions on the label carefully.
2. Use an oven thermometer to make sure your oven is the correct temperature – consider performing a pre-baking test before getting started.
3. Do not raise the temperature of your oven to bake clay projects faster, or you may burn the clay.

4. Make sure your project is baked all the way through for a stronger and more durable result. Place a layer of parchment paper beneath your project to avoid transferring any texture
5. from the pan.
Bake your project according to its thickest part to ensure it hardens completely.
6. Bake your creations on top of a ceramic tile for more uniform heating.
7. Cover projects with a disposable aluminum pan while baking to contain any odor and
8. prevent browning.

Shop Sculpey Polymer Clay for Your Next Project

It's amazing what you can create with different types of polymer clay and a few basic techniques. Check out our FAQ page for more details and instructions for how to craft with polymer clay. Sculpey products also come with detailed baking instructions for great results every time. Shop our selection of polymer clay, tools and other accessories today!



Shop our selection of polymer clay, tools and other accessories today!

Thank You For Downloading

Thank you for downloading this guide on choosing the right polymer clay for your project. The clay aisle of the craft store is an exciting place, and knowing which polymer clay is best for your skill level and application makes choosing your supplies a lot simpler. When you use the right products, crafting with polymer clay is easier and a lot more fun.

In this guide, we'll discuss the different types of polymer clay with 30 project ideas and tips! Whether you're an artist, teacher or just love making things with clay, you'll learn how to select the right Sculpey products to bring your artistic visions to life. We guarantee you'll feel like an expert on polymer clay by the time you finish reading this guide!

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Intro

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