

# “Colouring techniques:”

Learn how to achieve amazing results.”

*Chef Nicholas Lodge*

## Dusting powders

There are many companies around the world who manufacture dusting powders / petal dust. These are made specifically for dusting flowers and foliage but can also be used for painting, colouring paste etc.

They are different to powder colours as they are milled finer and most contain gum as a fixative to adhere to the petal or leaf. Most are edible or non-toxic depending on the country of manufacture – some will be marked edible, non-edible, some inedible and some non-toxic and some will not specify.

### Regular dusting powders / petal dusts (matt finish)

These come in many shades both strong and pastel but I would always suggest buying stronger colours and adding cornstarch / cornflour to lighten (when using green or other colours on dark colours you can lighten with white dust to make the colour opaque).

You can also paint with these and add to gumpaste to colour although it's more economical to use powder colours or gel.

### Compact dusts (matt finish)

There are a few companies who sell this, such as Sugarin Petal Palette ([www.petalpalettes.com](http://www.petalpalettes.com)). This comes in a kit form, you use like eye-shadow to dust your flowers and not as messy as regular dusts. The downside is there will be colours you use more than others just like buying an eye-shadow palette.

### Luster / pearl dusts (shiny finish)

These are finely milled and contain mica used in lipstick / eye-shadow. Use super pearl on flowers for a waxy look (after steaming). You can reduce the shine by mixing with cornflour / cornstarch.

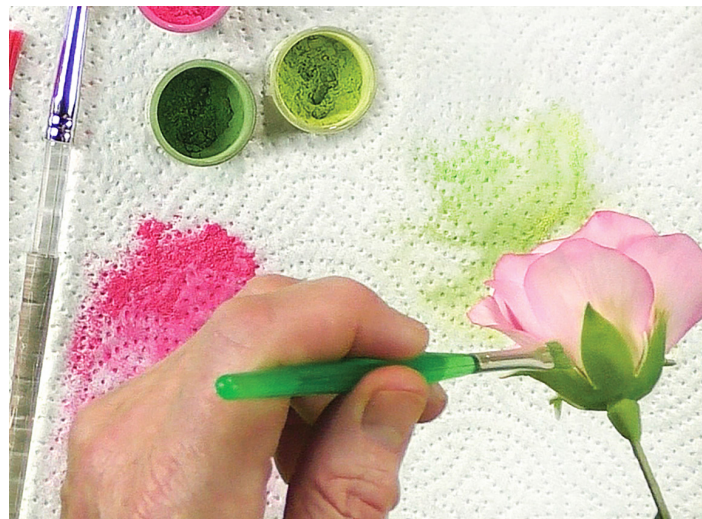
Use a pump brush for larger simple shape flowers like calla lily, a smaller round brush for smaller flowers or more complex shaped flowers like gardenia.

Rainbow dust paints / click twist brushes could also be used or you can buy airbrush sheen to paint or spray with an airbrush (do this prior to adding a calyx).

These come in many colours but you can also use your regular dusts added to super pearl to create your own colours, saving money too.

### Sparkle dusts (sparkly finish )

These are similar to pearl / luster dusts but have larger particles. On flowers I mostly use white to dust after the



regular dust on flowers, like hydrangea, then steam to set. Can be mixed with vodka and painted or using pump applicator on decorations / cakes.

### Hologram / disco dust (very sparkly)

This is a non-toxic glitter I only use on fantasy flowers by spraying or brushing with spray lacquer / confectioners glaze, sprinkle onto the petals, leave to dry then shake off the excess. (This product will not stick unless you use glaze or spray lacquer.)

On fall / autumn leaves I love to apply a little glaze on the edges then sprinkle copper coloured hologram dust. On holly and pine cones you can do the same with snow sparkle hologram dust.

### Metallic dusts (metallic finish)

Paint over items that do not need excessive handling using orange or lemon oil (natural or artificial). This could be used for the edge of petals, especially the edge of a rose. Mix with confectioners glaze to create a finish you can handle once dry.

### Fragrance powders (floral fragrance)

These floral fragrances can be mixed into your dusting powders so sugar flowers smell like real flowers for a few days. They produce a lovely natural fragrance, I use rose a lot. Can also be mixed into macaron batter and royal icing for cookie glaze. Manufactured by More Than Cake ([www.morethancakeonline.com](http://www.morethancakeonline.com)).

### Brushes

Synthetic, general craft type brushes with soft bristles, like for acrylics, are best.

Round: used for overall colour, flower centres.

Flat: darker overall colour like on foliage, edges of petals.

Angled flat: brushing stripes on petals like peony, central stripes on foliage, up base of roses.

Small rounded flat: accent colours on foliage, base of flowers.