

How to Make Polymer Clay Marbles

Making marbles out of clay is a great way to discover how marbles get their unique design features. As you manipulate the base color of clay with secondary colors of clay, twisting, folding and stretching the combination, suddenly streaks, stripes and swirls will appear. These features are the clues marble collectors use to help identifying marbles.

Supplies

- Polymer Clay
- Baking pan
- Kitchen Knife
- (Optional) Pasta Machine
- Aluminum Foil or Wax Paper
- Kitchen Oven or Toaster Oven
- Baker's Thermometer
- Cornstarch or Baking Soda
- Zip-Tight Bags



1. PURCHASE POLYMER CLAY

Buy several colors of Polymer Clay at an art store. Do not use toy-store plastic-based clay. Fimo® or Sculpey® brand Premo! Polymer clay works the best. Polymer Clay is available in spectacular colors. A variation of white, such as white or pearl is always a good base or contrasting color. Check out the metallic colors and fluorescent colors that glow under a black light!

Polymer Clay can be baked in a regular oven, or a toaster oven. It will retain its brilliant colors and durability forever. Polymer clay can be sanded and painted.

2. BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Preheat the oven according to the clay manufacture's recommended temperature, usually between 230°F (110°C) and 250°F (121°C). DO NOT USE A MICROWAVE. A Toaster Oven, which is portable, will also work. Make sure you have good ventilation. The goal is to cure them clay.

Polymer clay may damage counter tops and furniture, so cover the work surface with wax paper or aluminum foil.



3. CREATE A "MARBLING" EFFECT

Pinch off two or more small portions of different colored clay and knead each piece for several minutes until it is soft and warm. When the clay is warm and flexible, roll each piece into a "snake". Twist the two "snakes" together, fold them over and twist again. Repeat the twisting and folding 2 more times. Avoid completely blending the colors together, which will dilute the distinctive colors. Notice the color streaks. Marble collectors call these lines, **ribbons**. Polymer Clay Artists call this technique **marbling**.

