

How to Make Recycled Crayons

Lesson Goal: To discuss the different fundamental phases of matter; solid, liquid and gas (vapor). There are other phases that exist such as crystalline, colloid, glassy, amorphous etc....but let's wait for their high school physics class for those.

Crayons are made up of paraffin wax and pigments which allow the object when placed under heat to become a solid and at room temperature become a solid. Crayons melting point is roughly 120-150 F.

Age Group: 2 – 10 years old

Supplies List:

- Bag of unwrapped broken recycled crayons
- Cupcake tray or crayon specific molds – (silicone mold would not suggest reusing a chocolate or a baking mold as crayons are paraffin – petroleum-based products and may not want to use to eat)
- Oven that can heat to 120 – 150 F

Steps:

1. Ensure all paper is removed from the crayons.
2. Take mold or tray out – let kids fill. Ensure to fill the molds as much as possible, thin crayons will snap easily and will not work well.
3. Place in oven on 350 F until melted (roughly 15 to 20 minutes)
4. Let crayons sit for at least 2 hours to cool all the way through and harden
5. Take crayons out of mold
6. Enjoy your new recycled crayons

References:

<https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/kids-craft-how-to-make-recycled-crayons>