

Make chunky chawks

Create cool coloured chawks shaped like Easter eggs.

WARNING!
Do not put plaster of Paris down the drain. It will harden and block the pipes. Put it in the bin.

What you need

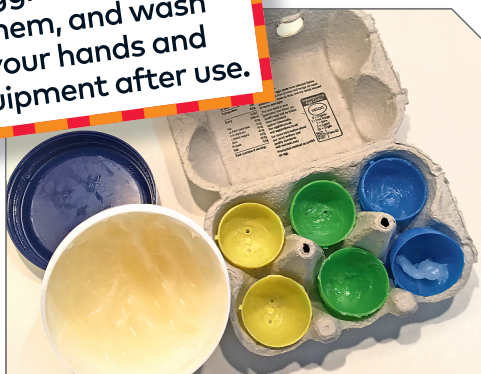
- Vaseline
- A hollow mould – we used plastic Easter egg moulds
- Egg box or container to hold the moulds
- 65g plaster of Paris (this makes enough fill three small egg moulds)
- 120ml water
- Bowl or plastic cup
- 1tbsp of poster paint for each colour of chalk

How does it work?

Plaster of Paris is a loose, white powder that becomes a paste when water is added. The paste turns from a liquid to a solid via a chemical reaction (a process that changes one or more substances into different ones). The reaction is exothermic, which means that it gives off energy. Plaster of Paris heats up as it sets; you can feel the moulds warming up as the plaster hardens inside them. Although it looks like it is drying out, the mix would harden even if it were underwater.



WARNING!
Avoid getting plaster of Paris in your eyes. Wear gloves and goggles if you have them, and wash your hands and equipment after use.

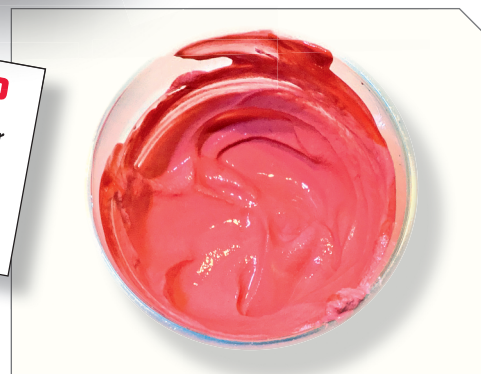


1 Coat the insides of each mould with Vaseline. Put them in a container to hold them level.



TOP TIP
Warm water speeds up the hardening process.

2 Mix the plaster of Paris with the water in a bowl or plastic cup, and stir until well blended.



3 Now, mix in the poster paints. For a more vibrant colour, just add more paint.



4 Carefully pour your coloured plaster mixture into each mould. Allow it to set for five minutes or until it is thick and not too runny.



5 If you're using egg moulds, snap the halves together. Shake and tap them to make sure both halves stick together inside the moulds.



6 Leave the mixture to harden fully overnight, then remove the chalk carefully from the moulds (you may need to tap them gently).