



Activ-Clay® Instructions & Techniques

Activ-Clay is a natural self-hardening clay that does not require firing. It achieves high levels of hardness, strength, and durability after drying, with minimal shrinkage. Once dry, the clay can be painted with any type of paint and sealed with varnish. It can also be sanded, polished, carved, or drilled.

Activ-Clay features a soft, pleasant, and fine texture, making it comfortable to handle. Its natural clay composition provides excellent plasticity for modeling, allowing for very fine details. The clay is suitable for throwing on a potter's wheel as well. It is odorless and does not stain or stick to fingers during use. Any residue can be easily cleaned from surfaces with a damp cloth. The inclusion of natural cellulose fibers ensures safe drying without cracks or fissures, even in larger pieces.

Activ-Clay is perfect for hand building and sculpting, making it an excellent choice for professional artists, crafters, and children aged 4 and older.

Activ-Clay is available in these colors: extra white, white, terracotta, and black.



Activ'-Clay®

Features	
Plasticity	Very pliable and smooth. This clay can be used exactly like a potter's clay to the extent of sculpting fine details and even being thrown on a potter's wheel.
Strength	This clay dries to an extremely strong finish. To enhance strength, a varnish finish is recommended. Can be kiln fired for added strength, but not required.
Versatility	This clay can be sculpted, pinched, coiled, slab rolled, hollowed, molded, extruded, stamped, and even thrown on a potter's wheel. Once dry, this clay can be sanded, carved, drilled and painted. Minimal shrinkage. Dry slowly to prevent cracking.
Color	Bright White, White, Terracotta, and Black. The Bright White is a true white and can be considered a finished look once dry. The white clay dries slightly lighter and is ideal for the painting. The terracotta color mimics a real potter's clay. The black is beautiful with rubbed finishes and mica powder. All paints, powder, and varnishes are acceptable for air dry finish.
Odor	None
Stains	Clay does not stick to hands nor stain them. Only the terracotta, and black clay bodies leave a residue on work surfaces that can be easily cleaned with a damp cloth.
Drying	Self hardening - no kiln firing needed. Minimal shrinkage.
Durability	Once dry, the clay achieves the durability, hardness and solidity of ceramics which have been fired in a kiln. *NOTE: Will remain slightly porous and not become waterproof.

Drying Guidelines

- Once the clay object is finished, let it air dry. The typical drying time ranges from 1 to 4 days at room temperature, depending on the thickness of the piece and the surrounding environmental conditions.

*NOTE: Clay shrinks as it dries. The more water it contains, the greater the risk of cracking. For this reason, it is advisable not to add additional water to the modeling clay, as this may lead to cracks.

Keys to Optimal Drying

1. **Uniform Drying** Let clay pieces dry slowly. Avoid exposing them to direct heat sources or drafts to minimize the risk of cracking.
2. **Porous Surfaces** Place the pieces on materials such as paper, wood, or plaster to facilitate drying.
3. **Delaying Drying** For large pieces, cover them with partially open plastic sheets so that moisture can escape slowly.
4. **Flat Pieces** When working with tiles or slabs, place a flat weight on top to prevent warping.

*TIP: For small pieces, drying can be speed up by using a hand dryer or heat gun. In this case, the time for obtaining a maximum hardness and solidity is reduced to just a few minutes. Hardness can be further increased by finishing drying in a domestic oven between 100 and 110°C.

Tools Needed

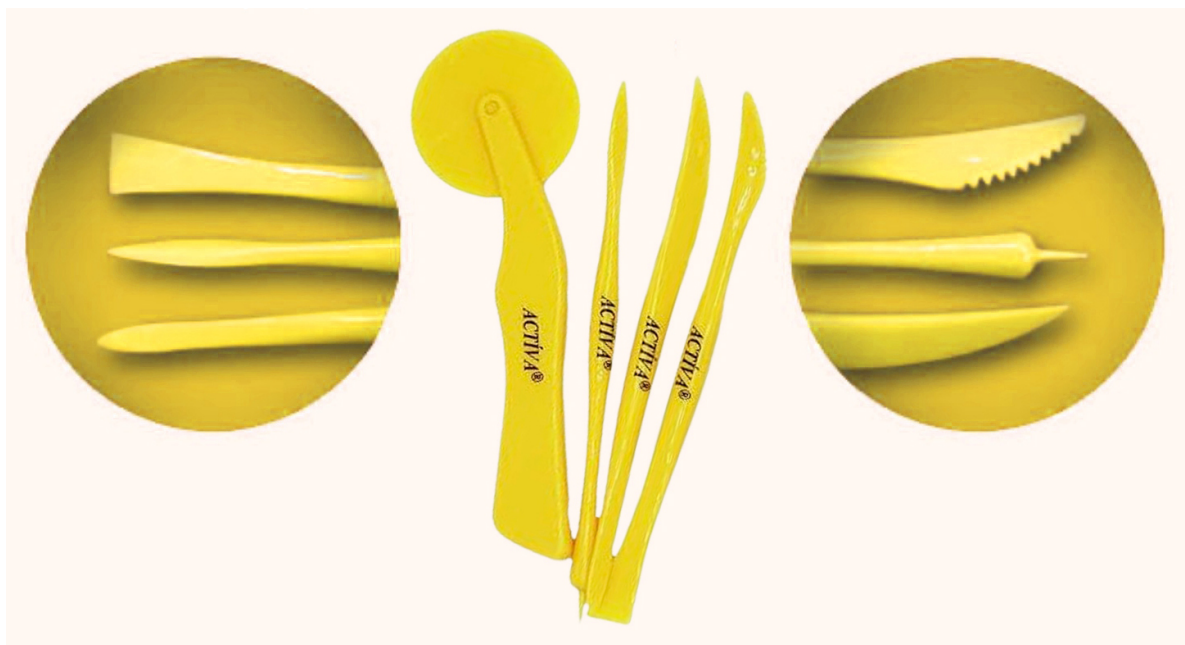
- Fingertips are one of the best clay tools. They are great for pinching, poking, pulling and smoothing the clay.



- A damp sponge works great for smoothing and moistening the clay if it cracks while working.



- Recommend tools are the **Activ-Tools Clay Tool Set**, which includes essential tools for getting started with clay modeling. These tools allow you to cut, sculpt, shape, embellish, texture, scribe, and add fine details to any clay medium. They are easy to clean and dishwasher safe, making them perfect for all skill levels. The Activ-Tools Clay Tool Set will give a professional finishing touch to all your clay projects.



The set includes the following tools:

Flat Edge Ideal for creating indentations, concaving surfaces, and clay cutting.

Modeling Used for smoothing, contouring and pattern decoration.

Rough Cut Blade Perfect for scoring, texturing, making patterns, and creating lines.

Needle Point Great for making dots, holes, fine details and lettering.

Smooth Cut Blade Used for smoothing, and cutting clay.

Roller Cutter Useful for cutting out shapes, slabs and tracing patterns.



Specialty Tools

- **Rolling Pin** Our Clay Roller Kit is useful for rolling out clay in preparation for making any air dry clay creation. The rails provide the ability to roll the clay to the desired thickness - ensuring an even surface area for slabs, stamping or texturizing.

*When using the Clay Roller Kit, if your clay sticks to the board, spread a thin layer of cornstarch on the board or lay parchment paper on the surface prior to rolling.



- **Shape Cutters** The Activ-Tools: Geometric and Designer Clay Cutters help create clay shapes to embellish larger projects, or use the cutters to create freestanding clay projects.



- **Texture Sheets** Add detail, dimension, and texture to any clay project with the Activ-Tools Designer Texture Sheets. Simply spread a thin amount of cornstarch to a piece of clay, lay one of the Designer Clay Texture Sheets on top, and gently roll flat to make an impression.



- **Extruder** An *extruder* is a tool that passes clay through a tube to form coils, which are used for applied decorations. There are different types that can be hand-held, attached to a wall or table. A simple garlic press can be used to create coils for hair or fur for clay modeling sculptures.



- **Banning Wheel** The Sculpting Wheel from ACTIVA is an excellent choice for pottery enthusiasts, as it can hold up to 30 pounds and features a 10 3/4 inch diameter. Its ability to rotate projects 360 degrees makes it versatile for various sculpting needs. It is turned by hand and used for finishing or decorating pottery. The low base design allows for convenient storage, while the free-wheeling ball bearing action ensures smooth operation. Constructed from industrial-grade plastic, it is rust-proof and resistant to stains, promising years of reliable use. Cleanup is a breeze with just soap and water, making it suitable for both adults and children.



Working Techniques

1. Initial Kneading

Before starting, knead the clay to achieve a uniform consistency and enhance its plasticity.

2. Maintain Moisture

If the clay becomes less flexible while working, slightly moisten hands. Avoid applying water directly to the clay to prevent over-saturation.

3. Inner Supports

When using an armature, first cover the structure with paper or fabric. A flexible and absorbent material helps prevent cracks during drying, as the clay will shrink when it loses moisture.

4. Joining Pieces

When joining two pieces, ensure that both have a similar moisture (hardness) level. Variations in shrinkage can cause the pieces to separate while drying. To secure the pieces together, score the surfaces and use slip.



*TIP: **Slip** - is liquid clay, it is used to join pieces of clay together like glue, it can be poured into molds or used for decorating.



To make slip: Break soft clay into small pieces and place in a shallow container. Allow the clay to fully air dry into hard chunks. Add enough water to cover the dry clay pieces. The clay will break down absorbing the water and become mushy. Mix the mushy clay using and apply over scoring marks with a brush.



5. Embellishments

A variety of craft materials (wood, metal, feathers, beads, yarn, etc.) may be added into the wet clay while working. If materials loosen when the clay piece has dried, they can be secured in place with an all purpose adhesive.





6. Marbling

Activ-Clay is available in bright white, white, terracotta, and black. These different colors of clay can be lightly blended together to create swirls and lines throughout the clay body for a marbling effect.



7. Combining Clays

Since Activ-Clay comes in a variety of colors, those colors can be combined when modeling sculptures and left in their natural state when dried.



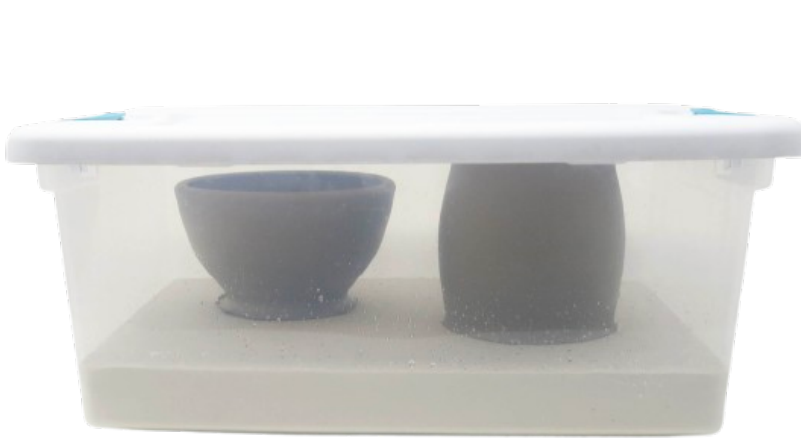
Working Tips

- Handle Activ-Clay with damp hands, to delay the drying process and maintain the proper moisture level for optimal use. If working for an extended period, lightly mist the clay project to extend working time. To continue a clay project over multiple sessions, cover it with plastic or store it in a damp box.
- Keep unused clay in an airtight zip-lock bag to keep the Activ-Clay fresh and ready for use while working.

Storage

- Once the clay package is opened, wrap leftover clay in tightly sealed plastic bag to prevent it from drying out. Clay pieces can be stored in a damp box while in the process of sculpting to keep it moist and workable.

*ATTENTION: keep the product in a cool environment, avoiding high temperatures. Do not store at temperatures below 0°C (32°F), as freezing reduces its plasticity.



Softening

- If the clay hardens but remains moist, soften it by kneading it with dampened hands. If the clay has hardened during storage, but is still moist, it can be softened again by wrapping it in a moist towel for 24 hours.



Finishing Options

- Once dry, the object can be polished, sanded, carved or drilled.



- Sculptures can be decorated with any type of paints, stains or markers.



- The use of varnish is recommended to enhance the natural color of the clay. The use of varnish also guarantees a greater durability of the object and improves the ease of cleaning.



- Embellishments (ribbon, yarn, feathers, fabric, glitter, buttons, etc.) may be added with adhesive.



*ATTENTION: Activ-Clay is not waterproof. It is not advisable to create objects that come into contact with water (vases, pots, cups, etc.) even if they are protected with a waterproofing agent. In this case, it is recommend to use an inner container made of plastic or glass, so that the piece of Activ-Clay is only for exterior decoration



Activ-Clay® is the perfect clay for kids!



Activ-Clay is a natural clay that is smooth and soft, ready to use right out of the package. This self-hardening clay dries to become super strong and durable, so you won't have to worry about crumbling or cracking. Activ-Clay is safe, non-toxic, easy to use, and most importantly, a lot of fun!

You can mold it with your hands or use simple tools like pencils and popsicle sticks. With Activ-Clay, a world of imagination is at your fingertips. You can make coil pots and slabs to construct boxes and containers. Model animals and figures—making it a fantastic choice for school projects. These are just a few ideas to get you started with Activ-Clay. Now, let's explore some techniques to unleash your creativity!

Hand Building Clay Techniques

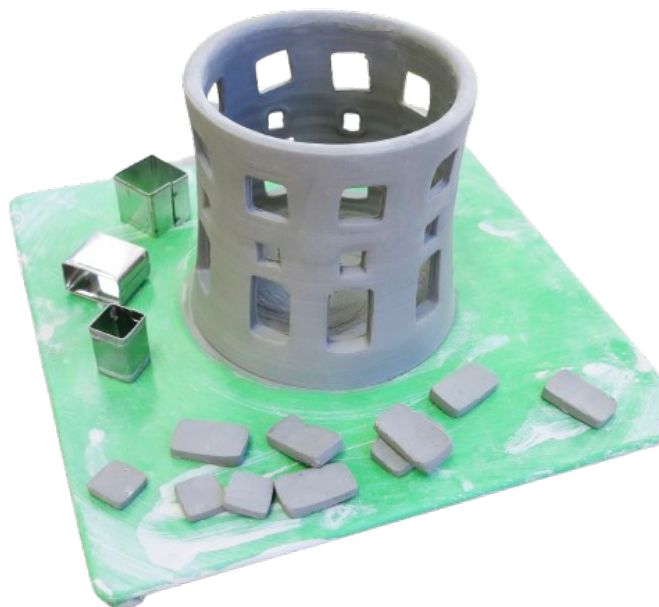
Modeling

The act of creating 3-Dimensional forms out of clay. Clay can be pulled, pinched or joined together.

- *Additive* - Is the process of joining pieces to create a form.



- *Subtractive* - Is the process of removing pieces to create a form by carving it off.



Hollowing

Removing the inside clay from a solid form.



Pinching

The process of squeezing a piece of clay between the thumb and the forefingers to make a hollow shape - pinch pots are made by pinching.

Pinching clay is the most fundamental method for interacting with clay, and its pliable nature often encourages people to shape it instinctively. For example, when given a lump of clay, a child will naturally start pinching it into a small bowl shape. Any type of clay can be used to create a pinched form with practice, but some clays are easier to work with than others. The most important factor to consider when pinching is the plasticity of the clay, as this directly affects its suitability for hand-building.



Coiling

Rolling or extruding a cylinder of clay to create a long snake like form. Coils can be stacked on top of each other to create pots or sculptures.

This technique allows for a variety of shapes and sizes, making it a versatile choice for artists. The potter can also incorporate textures and patterns by manipulating the surface of the coils, adding creative flair to the finished piece.



Slab Construction

Rolling clay into a flat sheet with either a rolling pin or slab rolling machine. Clay slabs can be formed into pots or sculptures at the soft stage or the slabs can be left to stiffen and assembled when leather hard.





Relief

A sculpture that projects from a flat surface. Sculptural elements have been carved into or attached onto the flat surface. Reliefs are meant to be viewed from the front.



Slump Molding

Draping a slab of clay into a form to shape it.



Hump Molding

Laying a slab of clay over the top of a form to shape it.



Stamping

Impressions can be made into the clay using plastic, wood, rubber, metal, and ceramic stamps.

*NOTE: Dusting a light layer of corn starch over the area to be stamped will help the stamp not to stick to the surface of the clay.



Thrown on the Potter's Wheel

Activ-Clay is made using real clay from the earth and will act just like other pottery clays on the potter's wheel.

*NOTE: Activ-Clay is not waterproof and will not preform like traditional fired ceramic pottery.





Activ-Clay

