

Dry Your Keepsake Flowers Using ACTIVA's Flower Art Silica Gel

Designed by Karen Lowrey



Do you have a special arrangement or bouquet that you would like to preserve for many years to come? By using *ACTIVA's* Flower Drying Art silica gel, you can relive this memorable occasion by drying your flowers. What a wonderful way to save your precious memories! So simple to use!



Materials needed:

ACTIVA's Flower Art Silica Gel – I used to two 5 lb boxes to speed up the process

Microwavable plastic containers with tight fitting lids (do not use these for food)

Fresh flowers

Scissors

Small scoop

Decorative wide mouthed crystal container or a shadow box

Cotton balls or *ACTIVA* Products colored sand

Microwave

Microwavable cup with water



Cut the flower stems to about 1 ½" long. Original stems may be dried and re-attached with floral wire and tape after drying. To use the original stems, it would be best to cut a 4" wire and poke it into the stem of the flower and then loop it back up to wire the stem on later. Pour the silica gel into the container to a depth of 1 ½" deep. The flower should be able to stand face up in the silica.



Make sure the flowers do not touch each other.



Build the silica up around the base of the flower by gently sprinkling silica gel around it and then sift it on the top and sides of the flower. Tap the container to make sure silica sinks into all the petals of the flower.



Completely cover the flowers with the silica gel. There are two ways to preserve your flowers. One method is to put the lid on the plastic container and let it set 2 – 7 days in a dry place depending on the type and thickness of the flower. Read the enclosed instructions to see the timetable for each type of flower. The method I used is the microwave method.



Place the uncovered container in the microwave with a cup full of water in a microwavable cup. I heated mine on medium power in one-minute increments according to the drying sheet enclosed in your box of silica gel.

I microwaved my flowers 3 1/2 minutes checking often for dryness. The silica gel will be very hot, so allow this to cool to room temperature. This may take several hours.



I arranged my dried flowers in a crystal wide mouth container. You could either pour colored sand in the bottom of the container for height or use cotton balls to elevate the flowers. I sprayed my arrangement with Hairspray to preserve them even further.



To reactivate the silica gel, place in a shallow pan in an oven heated to 250 degrees Fahrenheit for no less than 5 hours. The pink and white crystals will return to a blue hint when it is ready to be used again. What a fun way to preserve your memories!!



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