

ACTIVITY 8

MARBLE DIPPING

Activity provided by creative tutor Donnchadha O'Connor

Create beautiful effects on glass or ceramic objects

AGE: 10 - 14 years | ACTIVITY LENGTH: 30 mins.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- A large basin or bucket, A bin liner,
- Water, Nail varnish (2 or 3 colours)
- The piece you want to marble,
- A lollipop stick
- Modge podge (optional)
- Paintbrush (optional)

Step 1

Line your bucket or basin with the bin liner. This stops the residue clinging to the bucket when you have finished marbling the items. This will make cleaning up much easier.

Step 2

Fill the bucket / basin with water. You need to move smoothly and briskly through the next steps, so it might be a good idea to read over these a couple of times first to make sure you are clear about what you need to do! It can be a good idea to use a jam jar or bottle for a practice run before you start marbling your item.

Step 3

Drop a little nail varnish, just 2 or three drops from each bottle, onto the water from just above the surface. Try to do this well towards the middle of the bucket or bowl. The nail varnish should begin to move out across the surface like oil. Make sure you do not drop the nail varnish from too great a height above the surface of the water, because, if you do, the varnish will sink rather than float, and the marbling will not work.

Step 4

Push your jar, mug, or plate into the water slowly until the area you want to marble is submerged.



Step 5

Slowly swirl your piece about in the water. It is important to do this, because this breaks up the surface where a skin of varnish will have collected. If you lift your piece out without breaking up the skin, some of it may stick to your piece as you lift it out, and can cause a lumpy finish or water bubbles to be trapped under the varnish.

Step 6

Once the excess varnish is dispersed, lift your piece out of the water and set it aside to dry on a piece of cardboard or tissue paper.

NOTES

If you want to marble more than 1 item, you will need to do the following:

- Draw the lollipop stick across the surface of the water. The nail varnish will cling to it and in this way, you can remove all the varnish lying on the surface. You need to do this because the varnish will have dried on the surface of the water and will not work to marble a second item. Be careful how you dispose of the lollipop stick, as the varnish can still cause damage to furniture, etc. Having done this, you can start to add fresh nail varnish to the water.
- You can use as many different nail varnish colours as you wish. 2 or 3 colours usually looks best but remember to use very little of each.
- The newer the nail varnish, the better it works. Old varnish can give a poor finish to your piece.
- If you wish to use your piece for holding or serving food, you will need to add a further step to the process by using a product called Modge Podge.
- Modge podge looks like glue. Use a brush to cover your piece. Leave to dry for 24 hours, then wash in warm soapy water. Modge Podge is easily available on-line, and in many retail outlets.