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Town of Aurora

DIY Marbling Tutorial

Community Services - Youth

Supplies

- Nail Polish (2-3 colours)
- Plastic Tub
- Water
- Items to Marble (e.g. boxes, tags, cups, etc.)
- Newspaper
- Wooden Sticks/Coffee Stir Sticks
- Nail Polish Remover
- Masking or Painting Tape



Activity Notes

- Check to make sure it is okay to marble the items you've chosen (e.g. don't use something that belongs to another household member).
- We don't recommend marbling anything you're going to eat or drink out of. If you choose cups or plates, they should be decorative, not for future food/drink use.
- Make sure to complete this activity in a well ventilated area (e.g. outside or with the windows open). Nail polish doesn't always smell the best!
- Don't get discouraged if the pattern doesn't cover like you want it to. Try dipping again after the item has dried a bit! The important part is just to experiment and see what works best for you!
- If there are parts of the item you don't want covered, try taping them over with masking or painting tape. This will help ensure the polish doesn't bleed over.

Instructions

1. Select the colours of nail polish you would like to use. Tape off any areas of your dipping items that you don't want paint to cover.



2. Fill your plastic tub with a couple of inches of water. For most of your items, you should only need a few inches of water. If you are marbling a bigger object, pick a larger container and add enough water so that the piece can be submerged completely.



3. Begin to gently pour in the polish, one colour at a time. The first colour to hit the water will span out over the whole surface so try to begin with a lighter colour and work up to darker colours. Continue to add colours till you're happy with the pattern. Try to work fast as a lot of newer nail polishes are "Fast Drying"!



4. Once you have things just right, it's time to dip! There are two easy ways to transfer the colour onto your item;

- a. Dipping Technique 1

Press your item straight down through the polish into the water. This should allow the polish to cover your item on all sides, enveloping it in the surrounding pattern. *Sometimes, the paint can get stuck on the bottom – bit of a hit or miss technique.*



- b. Dipping Technique 2

Tilt your item at an angle as you push it under, rolling it through the water. You want to use the length of the tub to cover each side. This method works well on larger pieces that you don't want to submerge or when a certain pattern is desired on all sides.



5. Lay your items on the newspaper to dry. For best results, let the items dry overnight in a well ventilated area. If there are any spots you don't love, clean them up with some nail polish remover before they dry.



Video Tutorials

Want to see this tutorial in action? Check out a recording of our live tutorial on the Town of Aurora's Instagram for teens. Our handle is [@AuroraTeens](#).