

Crafts from Trash

Crayon Recycling Activity

Materials Needed:

Small Crock Pot (1-quart size or less)
Small plastic ladles
Plastic molds with various shapes
(e.g. the type used for candy making)
Used Crayons
Pot holders or oven mitts for crock pot
Paper towels



Directions:

1. Prepare the crayons:

Sort crayons by color (blues in one pile, yellows and oranges in another, etc.)
Remove any paper from crayons
Break crayons into small pieces (½ inch)

2. Cover bottom of crock pot with like-colored crayons in an even layer (approximately 1 inch thick). Turn on crock pot (low setting if applicable) and wait approximately 30 minutes for crayons to melt. Periodically check crayons and wait until melted. Wait at least 20 minutes before stirring mixture.



4. After the crayons have completely melted, use the ladles to carefully pour melted crayon mixture into molds.

5. Cool crayons thoroughly (in refrigerator or freezer if available for 10 minutes). Turn molds over to release crayons.

6. Students should turn in completed worksheet in order to receive a “new” crayon.

Helpful Suggestions

- Caution: Melted crayon mixture can be very hot, so adult supervision is required for crayon making activity.
- Do NOT use black/gray/white crayons in a mix with other colors.
- Small lumps of crayon can remain in the mixture, as long as they will fit into the mold.
- It is easier to clean crock pot, ladles with a paper towel while the mixture is still warm.
- Recycled crayons are easiest to remove from molds when cooled in a freezer.
- Work on one color group at a time – as one group melts, another group can be sorted and prepared.
- If you have more than one crock pot, you can form an “assembly line” of different colors and make production more efficient.

