

DIY Salt Dough Paw Print Ornament

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WARNING: Salt dough ornaments can be toxic to cats and dogs if ingested, due to the large amount of salt in them. Please be sure you keep the ornaments out of reach of your pets to avoid any issues.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup of flour
- 1/4 cup of salt
- 1/4 cup of water

This will make enough salt dough for roughly 3-4 ornaments.

Recipe can be doubled/halved/etc. to meet your needs.

Other Materials:

- Medium mixing bowl
- Cookie sheet
- Rolling pin (optional)
- Straw (optional)
- Acrylic paints
- Paint brushes
- Sharpie
- Acrylic varnish
- String
- Ornament hooks

Step 1: Preheat oven or toaster oven to 250° F

Step 2: Mix flour and salt in a medium mixing bowl.

Step 3: Add water and stir to mix thoroughly.

Step 4: Sprinkle countertop with flour so that the dough doesn't stick to the counter. Knead dough on counter until it's soft and easily moldable. Add more flour if the dough is super sticky.

Step 5: Flatten out the dough to about 1/4 inch thickness. You can use a rolling pin to make it easier, but I don't have one so I just used my hands. It worked just fine.

Step 6: Grab your cat (or dog) and imprint his paw print into the dough!

Step 7: Trim off excess dough around the edges. You could even make the ornament into a cool shape, but I always just make it a circle/oval shape.

Step 8: Make the hole in the top of the dough for the hanging string. You can use a straw to do this, or a pen. Just be sure that you make the hole big enough to fit your string through. Keep in mind that the hole may close in a little bit while the ornament is baking in the oven.

Step 9: Place dough on an un-greased cookie sheet. The original recipe I found for salt dough says to cook it in the oven for 2-3 hours, but it only took about an hour and 40 minutes for mine to finish. I suppose it depends on your oven. I would set a timer for an hour and a half, and then keep an eye on it after that point. When it is completely dry and hard, take it out. Be careful not to leave it in too long, or it will start to crack.

Step 10: Remove from the oven and let cool completely.

Step 11: Paint it!

Step 12: Let the paint dry, then add your pet's name to the back of the ornament in a sharpie. I always include the year I made the ornament as well, as it is usually that pet's first Christmas with us.

Step 13: Spray the front and back of the ornament with 2-3 coats of an acrylic varnish. This sealant will help to make the ornaments last for years and years to come. It also makes them shiny. (I always do this step outside.)

Step 14: Add string and an ornament hook, and voila! You are finished!

