

Art Making Kit

Collecting materials and tools to create your own art making kit is a fun activity and will provide you with all you need to start experimenting and making some artwork. Most of the materials suggested are recycled from household waste and can be sourced for free from your local shop or supermarket. This list is by no means extensive so keep your eyes peeled for other materials and tools you could use at home and outside.



Cardboard

Cardboard is a very versatile material and comes in a variety of sizes, shapes, colours and textures. You can use it as a canvas, make templates, cut it up and built with it, soak it in water and mould it and much more. You can use egg boxes, fruit and vegetable packaging, loo roll tubes, long wrapping paper tubes, cardboard boxes. Some cardboard is coated in plastic. Cut open cartons to find silvery insides and lovely smooth surfaces ideal for collage printing and construction.

Plastics

Recycled plastics come in some wonderful bright colours and shapes and they're robust and waterproof. Keep your eyes peeled for interesting bottle tops, bubble wrap (can be found inside Jiffy bags), lids, medicine blister packs, bottles, old rubber gloves and plastic bags which you can cut into strips and braid to make your own string.



Metals

Some metals such as tin foil and paper foils found in crisp packets and chocolate wrappers are suitable for all ages. You can also recycle aluminium casings from tea lights, metal bottle tops and soft drink and tin cans but you need to be very careful not to cut yourself as the edges are very sharp and better suited for 10 years+.

Textiles

Recycle some of your old clothes or socks or ask people if they have any they don't want. Old socks and tights are really stretchy and can fill them up or can cut them into long strips to make thread for sewing, weaving or braiding. You could also cut them out and sew them together or stick them down to make a collage.



Sticking and Fixing

There are lots of ways to fix things together. Sellotape, electrical tape, masking tape, glue sticks, PVA, UHU glue, washing-line pegs, elastic bands, hairbands, safety pins, hair pins, fabric pins, string (see above), wool, hole punching and threading string through, stapling and sewing.

Drawing and Painting Tools

Drawing and painting tools are anything that you can make a mark with. Pencils, colouring pencils and pens such as biros, crayons and charcoal are always useful as well as paintbrushes. However you could also collect a variety of sticks from your local park or attach different materials to a washing-line peg to draw with using ink, mud or paint. Making your own drawing and painting tools is lots of fun and allows you to create lots of interesting effects.





Measuring Tools

Measuring tools are invaluable if you're making something precise. Tape measure, ruler, and objects are all useful for measuring. You could make geometric shape templates from recycled card too. Other useful tools are a compass for drawing and measuring curves and a set square for accurate angles.

Cutting Tools

Scissors are an essential tool. Nail scissors are also good for detailed and intricate cutting but are very sharp. Remember you can also use your hands to tear materials such as a paper and cardboard, giving you different textured edges to work with.



Storage

Jars are handy to have around. You can draw around them or use them to hold water and clean your brushes. They're useful for mixing up liquids in and keeping homemade ink, paint and potions. They are also useful for storing smaller materials in and you can design and make labels for them

Top Tip: Be inventive! Keep your eyes out for materials going to waste and explore different ways you could use them.

Experiment: Use a variety of tools or make your own!