

Treasures Out of Sand

Have you ever been to the beach and wished that you could bring your castle home with you? Here is a way to make sand creations that you can keep! This project is rated EASY to do.

What You Need:

- 3 cups of sand (If you don't have "beach sand," you can buy "play sand" at a hardware store.)
- 1- 1/2 cup of cornstarch
- 1- 1/2 cup of water
- Newspaper
- Old cooking pot
- Large spoon

How To Make It

1. Mix the ingredients together in the pot.
2. The next two steps require a grownup. The grownup should cook the mixture over low heat, stirring constantly.
3. When it gets thick, take it off of the stove and let it cool.
4. Once it is cool, use the spoon to turn it out on the newspaper.
5. Now you can make it into any shape you like, let it dry, and keep your creation forever!

Tips:

If the corn starch and the sand are mixed first, it keeps the corn starch from clumping up when the water is added. Also, a quick spray of Pam or other lubricating spray helps the sand pop right out of the sandcastle molds. A hole poked into the top of the sandcastle mold also seemed to help.

To make the sandcastles pop out perfectly, the trick seemed to be packing the sand mixture into the molds tightly and leaving an air space at the open end of the mold and slamming the mold down hard onto the plate....the extra air helps pop the sand right out.

Decorate your castle with round glass stones (the ones really used for vases for flowers) some little colored shells, and little flag like castles of old (use a toothpick for the pole and glue or tape a flag your child has made to the pole.)

Tips & Warnings

- Extremely wet sand is easiest to work with. Use a spray bottle to wet down the sand if your castle begins to dry and crumble during construction.
- Be sure to jiggle the sand while building, as pounding, beating or pushing the sand might destroy your castle. Another popular method is the drip method, where you squeeze a fistful of extremely wet sand and let it drip out of your hand into piles.



These are examples of more skilled creations!

Click on any one to go to [Sand Castle Central](#) and see more examples of possibilities!

Have fun!