

Although CelPaste can be rolled very thin for making flower petals etc., it is important to remember that it will shrink about 15-18% during the drying process, depending upon the thickness. Paste rolled too thin may have insufficient definition on drying. When thinning petal and leaf edges, use a rolling action rather than stretching - metal ball tools work particularly well. It is possible to use a wide range of plastic and metal flowers cutters. All the petal shapes for a flower can be cut out and worked and veined before any assembly - the Asis es paste does not dry out as quickly as sugar, for example. Petals are attached to each other by using PVA glue (water soluble vinyl glue), and the flowers can be hung upside down to dry. If formers are used, remove after a while so that the underside can dry thoroughly. Flowers should normally be left overnight to dry, and large flowers may need longer. The petals can be slightly reshaped the next day by holding over steam and bending.

For figure modelling (eg figurines, animals, birds) large pieces should not be made from solid paste, because the surface will crack. For a central bulk use styrofoam or papier maché, which may be fixed and supported on strong wires. For branches, the wires can be wrapped with absorbent paper (eg toilet paper) before adding the paste. Extra soft paste (paste with water added) may be added to a dried area and blended by rubbing over with wet fingers, without leaving noticeable joins.

For colouring, craft dusting colours and chalks may be used but the finished pieces then need to be sealed with a lacquer. Water colours and acrylics may be suitable for certain pieces and there is scope for experimentation. However, oil colours give pleasing effects, particularly for painting flowers, and they are the most resilient colouring medium - cold porcelain work painted in this way not only keeps its colour, but can also be rinsed under a tap when dusty. Care needs to be taken to avoid using too much thinners however, because this will also give a finish which is plastic-like!

NB. Sugarcrafters should not place Cold Porcelain directly onto a cake surface. Though it is non-toxic, it is not an edible product and should not be used merely as a substitute for sugar!

### **Additional Information and Tips on using CelPaste :**

CelPaste has a 'shelf life' of up to 12 months and should be stored at room temperature in a cool dry place. To use the paste, knead a small and if you feel the paste is too soft to use, leave in the air for 10 minutes and knead, then repeat if necessary or until it is of the right consistency. If the paste seems too firm, then simply wrap in a damp cloth and leave for 30 minutes. It will absorb some moisture and can then be kneaded back to the desired consistency - repeat the process as necessary.

For paste that has gone very hard, you may still be able to recover a substantial amount by placing in a bowl of water for a while and then, after rubbing a little cold cream on hands, work and knead back to a soft and usable state - we have heard of one case where some paste was "lost" for over 2 years, but by placing in water and kneading etc., 95% of the paste could still be used!

Experimentation is the rule - try it and if it works let us know, so we can tell others!

### **How to use CerroPaste :**

CerroPaste is very new and Leticia has produced some excellent videos (see details on video kits below) to carefully explain how it should be handled. Many of the ways are similar to working with other pastes, but CerroPaste already has some whitener added at the manufacturing stage. Leticia does not recommend metal tools and says that plastic modelling tools work fine.

You can use paste colours (the poster colours that are used in schools) and these are the colours included in the video kits. There are 5 introductory video kits (video 45min) on making character animals and two more advanced video kits (video 100min, including 20min general instructions) on human figures :



Leticia's modelling style involves covering styrofoam shapes and using glue to join them together - her technique does not involve adding water to the paste to paint on and create fur effects etc.. She uses paste colours in the video kits and mentions that oil colours can be used for more advanced results.

Once again experimentation is the rule - try it and if it works let us know, so we can tell others!

### **More information :**

"Cold Porcelain Projects" booklet by Margaret Ford - over 30 projects, using CelPaste, from beginner to more advanced  
 "Forever Flowers" and "Forever Figures" CelPaste videos by Titi Pena & Margaret Ford

C.P.Works! is our quarterly cold porcelain publication - see overleaf for subscription details.

### **Website :**

Our website has full information on products, prices, classes, day visits, The Cold Porcelain, Sugar & Craft Show (York), and much more : [www.celcrafts.co.uk](http://www.celcrafts.co.uk)

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