

Thank You and Welcome!



First and foremost, thank you for your purchase.

Here at The Foamory, it is our mission to bring you the best quality of EVA Foam and Cosplay supplies.

Now that the Foam Clay is on its way to your front door, let's take a little bit of time and go over some important tips so you are ready for delivery...and most importantly, getting creative with your Moldable Foam Clay!

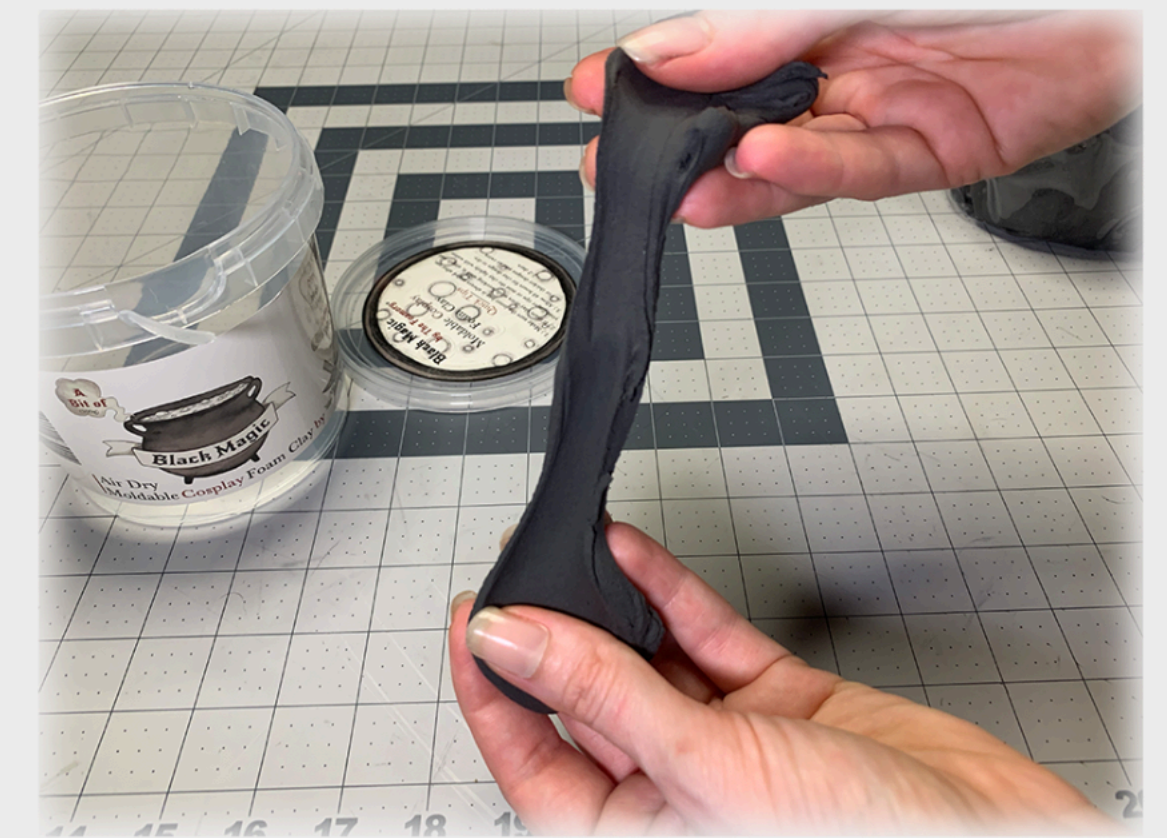
The Foamory's Officially
Unofficial Getting Started Instructional
PDF Guide!



Getting Started

1.) First Things First

Grab a utensil of your choice and pop the TAB off the tub of Foam Clay. Pull firmly on the lid, it seals very tight.



2.) Next Let's Take some Out Of The Container & Prep it!

It's a good idea to stretch out and knead the foam clay a little bit before you start working with it, this will help the clay to take details and hold shape better.



Important Foam Clay Info

- **ALWAYS** REMEMBER TO SEAL THE BAG IN BETWEEN USES AND CLOSE THE LID TIGHT TO MAXIMIZE SHELF LIFE, THIS IS "AIR DRYNG" CLAY AFTER ALL :)
- IN GENERAL, 1. SCULPT YOUR BASIC SHAPE AND DETAILS WHILE CLAY IS WET.
*NOTE: IT IS NORMAL FOR SOME DETAIL LOSS AS IT DRIES...
...2. CORRECT AND ADD FINE DETAILS AFTER IT DRIES; CUTTING, SANDING, ETCHING, ETC. JUST LIKE EVA FOAM!

IMPORTANT!!!

Make sure you seal the bag between uses and close the lid tight when you are done with it to help maximize the clay's shelf-life.

If you can read this, then congratulations, your eye sight is impeccable!

As with all small print, there is nothing here to really read, but thank you for being thorough.

You may continue to the next page...no seriously, go check it out. Good day. I said good day!

Tools Of The Trade

- Moldable Foam Clay -

The Foamory®

*As recommended by your
trusty advisors at



2.) Water

That's right, WATER is your next best tool. Because this is an Air-Drying Clay, the clay needs to be moist to best shape it. So as you are working with it and it starts drying out, just add water!

PRO (FOAM) TIP: Don't be afraid to wet your finger tips regularly or even mist the clay directly with a SPRAY BOTTLE.

IMPORTANT!!!

Another friendly reminder to seal the bag and close the lid tight when done grabbing more CLAY.



3.) Silicone Sculpting Tools & Molds

SILICONE SCULPTING TOOLS are the best way to etch and carve details in the CLAY while it is wet. The SILICONE doesn't seem to drag as much as metal does.

Our Foam Clay is magic, Black Magic that is, with SILICONE MOLDS. It maintains very fine details when you remove the CLAY from the mold.

*(Be sure to check out the next section for the FREEZER tip with MOLDS)



4.) EVA Foam Tools

After the Foam Clay air dries and hardens you can do all the same things you like to do with EVA Foam; Cut, Sand, Glue, Heat Shape, Etc. So feel free to break out those Cosplay Tools!



5.) From Prep To Presentable

Here are the final tools you will need to finish off your awesome Cosplay build.

Sealing



Before you paint, sealing is a must. MODPODGE and PLASTIDIP (our preferred) are the most used and easiest to apply. LATEX RUBBER SPRAY and EPOXY RESIN are just as good, if not better, but more complex in application.

Priming



Before painting, priming is a must. Most any primer spray paint from your local hardware store will do. *Note that it comes in different colors but also in a clear option if you so require.

Painting



Before paint...oops, got ahead of myself there...Now it's time to paint! Many options here. Spray painting and Air-brushing are some of the most common methods. SPRAY PAINT is great for coloring large sections of foam where the AIRBRUSH shines with detail work. And of course there are many other types of paint you can utilize with different methods.

1.) Your Hands... And Household Tools

Good news, the best tool for Foam Clay are your HANDS...and they're FREE! That's right, all you need to do is pull some Clay out of the container and you can start creating.

But don't stop there, looking around the house you can find things like a ROLLING PIN, SILVERWARE, PENS, PENCILS, a UTILITY KNIFE to help cut, shape, add indentations, textures...the list goes on and on with the TOOLS you already have around the house and the things they can help you with.





The Completely Incomplete Step-By-Step Beginner's Guide For Your Foam Clay Cosplay Build

1.) You have the Tools, you have the Talent!

Assuming you have gathered the tools you need and done some research on techniques and tips on working with Moldable Foam Clay, let's keep moving!

If not, go to YouTube immediately and start watching videos on such. The knowledge is within your fingertips reach. *see the end of this section for suggestions

2.) Get your Hands Dirty

Start by pulling the desired amount out of the container. Make sure to stretch and kneed the clay a bit, this helps to work out possible air pockets and allows the clay to take details and hold shape the best.

3.) Just Add Water

Remember that as you are working with the Clay it will dry out the longer it is exposed to air and you will need to add water to keep it shaping smoothly and so that it holds fine details. Wet your finger tips and spray the Clay directly with water.

3.5.) Silicone Mold, Freeze!

When utilizing a SILICONE MOLD, after pressing the clay into it, place the MOLD into your FREEZER for

1 hour or until frozen. You

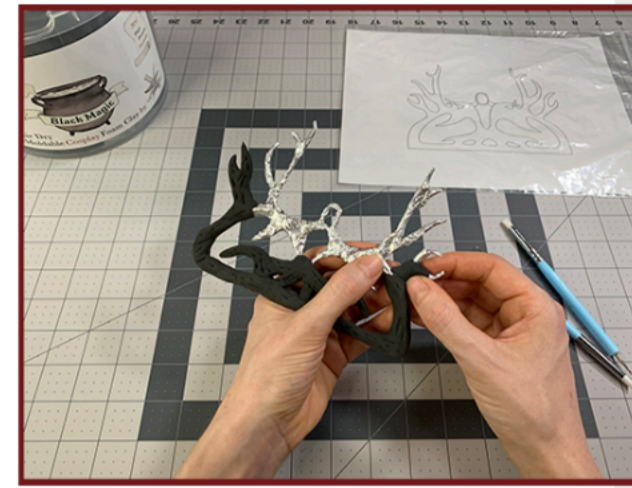
can then easily remove your clay design in a solid state from the SILICONE MOLD while maintaining maximum detail and not squish it in the process!



4.) Thicker isn't always better, Build an Armature

If your design is too thick or needs added stability, you may want to build a wire/tin foil ARMATURE or structure for the CLAY to wrap around.

A clay design that is too thick may not completely dry in the center and/or may need a stronger structure in the center in general. It is always good to experiment and play around with it to see what will work best for your build.



5.) The Curing Process and Drying Times

In the first 24 hours, the outer layer of the air exposed clay Cures into a harder skin...this is the CURING PROCESS.

Depending on the thickness of your Build, the rest of the clay will dry and harden over the next 24 - 48 Hours

For thicker designs it can take anywhere from 3 days to 1 week to dry, or if it is too thick the inside may not dry at all.

6.) The Foamory's Preferred Methods

- The general idea is to do the basic shape and details of your build while the Clay is wet.
- If you need to add finer touches to it after it dries, work with it as you would EVA Foam; Cut, Sand, Dremel, ETC.

***NOTE: It is normal for the clay to lose some detail and shrink as it dries. It will also lose some flexibility.

- However, we have learned a good method to reduce Shrinkage and maintain Flexibility and increase Durability:

➔ *After shaping and adding details to wet Clay, allow the first 24 hours of the Curing Process to occur.*

Then SEAL your design with PLASTIDIP; this will simultaneously maintain Flexibility and minimize Shrinkage as well as create an even stronger and more durable Outer Skin.



PRO (FOAM) TIP: When applying PLASTIDIP, make sure to apply thin even coats. Depending on your build, if you want more flexibility only do 1 coat. For more durability apply a 2nd coat or more.

7.) The Key is in The Details

(Do this step before SEALING or applying PLASTIDIP)

It's time to clean up your edges and round off some angles.

SANDPAPER can easily do this trick and having varying grit numbers on hand is always a good idea: for smoothing surfaces and removing small imperfections, choose 80 to 120-grit (medium). For finishing surfaces smoothly, use a super fine sandpaper with 360 to 600 grit. That said, a DREMEL can accomplish this and so much more! It does take a little practice, but with all the different bits and attachments that are available, this one tool can also do: *etchings, engravings, those cool circular rivets with the drum bit, and probably many more things not mentioned here.*

*Other Expert Resources

If you are new to Cosplay, then this is only the beginning. **CONGRATULATIONS!** Enjoy the journey down the rabbit hole. There are many other resources and experts on the internets. To name a few:

- *Bill Doran* - has some great books on foamsmithing and a Youtube channel called *PUNISHED PROPS*
- *Evil Ted* - is a great resource for all things Cosplay on Youtube
- *Facebook* has many helpful Cosplay groups, join ours @ *EVA Foamsmith Guild*



8.) Sealing, Priming, Painting and Be Proud!

HEAT SEALING: (This step is mainly for EVA Foam) is a great prep procedure before you seal and paint. Using the HEAT GUN, lightly go over your foam pieces; this will smooth out the foam, getting rid of any fingerprints or imperfections and ready if for sealants and paint.

SEALING: is next; it will make your foam more durable, so choose the one you would like to work with and coat your foam. We prefer MOD PODGE and PLASTIDIP.

PRIMING: time! Spray the foam with your can of PRIMER PAINT. This will create a nice even canvas for you to paint.

PAINTING: pick your poison and go to town with your preferred paint. Many different options and techniques here so if you aren't sure, do yourself a favor and do some internet research with the above mentioned resources.

Now beam with pride over your creation! Remember that this is just a humble overview of how to work with Foam Clay and that there are many more techniques out there to be learned, so do your due diligence.

Go Big with your Creativity, Go Big with The Foamory®