

## Clay Christmas Decorations

1/2 cup cornstarch

1 cup baking soda

3/4 cup water

In a medium sized pot combine the cornstarch, baking soda, and water. With an adults help the kids can stir this mixture over medium-low heat. After a couple of minutes, the mixture will begin to thicken. You must stir the pot and never leave it, or this mixture will setup. When it looks like smooth, mashed potatoes, remove the pot from the heat. Coating the spoon with cornstarch will help the spoon get the clay out of the pot. Spoon the ball of dough into a bowl and cover it with a damp cloth until its cool. I placed it in the refrigerator for 10 minutes to cool. When it's cool, knead it on a smooth surface, adding a little more cornstarch if it feels sticky. You will need to have cornstarch on the surface and on your hands to knead the clay.

### Rolling, cutting, and baking

Preheat oven to 175 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll out clay to 1/4 inch thick on a surface lightly dusted with cornstarch. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Transfer shapes to the prepared baking sheet. Use chopsticks or pencil to poke a hole in the center top of each decoration,. Place them in the oven at 175 degrees for about an hour, turning them over halfway through cooking.

Increase the temp to 200 degrees, one hour, turning over after 30 minutes. Allow to completely cool in the oven. Cool = cold. Taking the harden clay out too soon will cause them to crack.