

Clay Mushroom Garden Stakes You Can Make Without a Kiln

Beginner; about 1.5 hours hands-on plus 24-48 hours drying

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- [ ] Air-dry clay, 1 kg (2.2 lb) - makes 6-8 mushrooms
- [ ] Bamboo skewers, 12 in - 6-8
- [ ] Acrylic paint: tomato red and warm white
- [ ] 1 extra paint colour (mustard or sage, optional)
- [ ] Flat 1/2 in brush and a small round brush
- [ ] Toothpicks and a pencil (for dots)
- [ ] Small bowl of water
- [ ] Wax paper or parchment paper
- [ ] Craft knife or plastic knife (adult use)
- [ ] Hot glue gun and 1 glue stick (or strong craft glue)
- [ ] Matte acrylic varnish or decoupage medium
- [ ] Fine sandpaper, 220 grit (optional)
- [ ] Small terracotta pots for display (optional)



Step by Step

- [ ] Cut clay into 6-8 walnut-size pieces; keep spare wrapped
- [ ] Roll a piece into a 3 in log for the stem, fatter at top
- [ ] Press another piece into a 2.5 in wide dome for the cap
- [ ] Score stem top and cap underside; wet, press, smooth seam
- [ ] Poke a skewer 1.5 in into the base, then twist it out
- [ ] Dry on wax paper 24-48 hours until hard and pale
- [ ] Sand rough spots; paint cap red and stem white; dry
- [ ] Dot the cap with white paint using a brush handle end
- [ ] Seal with a thin coat of varnish; let it dry
- [ ] Hot glue a skewer into the hole; hold 30 seconds
- [ ] Stake mushrooms in pots at 2-3 different heights

NOTES