

## Make your own Window Clings

In order to make your own window clings, you will need the right kind of paints. Fabric or glass paints with a gel-like consistency that is somewhat rubbery when dry. It should appear translucent or milky when both wet and dry. Make certain the paint comes in a squeeze tube with a fine-tip spout for fine lines; you will need to squirt the paint on rather than brush it.

A safe alternative for children is to substitute the paint with white craft glue mixed with food colorings.

To make your own window clings, you will need:

Paints in assorted colors

Polyvinyl, transparency paper, or page protectors

Pictures of the patterns that you would like to transfer

Toothpicks

Paper towels

Place the polyvinyl, transparency paper or page protector sheet over the pattern. You can draw something freehand, print something out from the Internet, or scour children's coloring books to find pictures you want to use. The paint won't touch it, so don't worry about ruining a one of a kind picture. You're using the picture as a guide for painting, completely visible yet protected under the transparent sheet you're using.

Choose a paint to outline the design. Shake it well, up-side down, then tap it up-side down on the table a few times. This will help get air bubbles to rise up so they won't splatter your paint.

Out line the design with the paint. Put on a good, thick coating. Let it dry for a couple of hours (judge by drying time on the bottle). Then, take your other paints and begin to fill in the lines like you would decorate a cookie with royal icing. The paint should be a heavy coating, but not thick enough to create wet "bubbles." These are created when the paint is put on so thick that the outer layer dries, protecting the inner layer and keeping it wet. Practice with this technique will help you master it.

If you want to blend to colors into each other, place them side by side, then use the tooth pick to blend by making small, zigzagging and circular motions just where they meet. Continue doing this until the colors meld into one and the lines blur. If you want to gradually lighten a part of the picture, add a tiny dot of white to the part you want lightest, and begin using the same zigzagging and circular motions, drawing the white color out and away from the point of origin until it blends well.

Leave the picture to dry, even longer than the instructions on the paint recommend, because you are using such a heavy coating. When dry, the picture will peel right off the transparent background. It will stick to windows, mirrors, or any glass surface. You'll be able to remove them and reposition them at will.

Note on removal: usually this should not be a problem, except in extreme weather conditions. If it is freezing cold, your window cling may crack when you try to remove it. Try blowing it with a hair dryer set on warm for a few minutes until the window cling and the window heat up. Alternately, in extreme heat, your window cling may become soft, and, when you try to remove it, it may tear or stretch. To avoid this happening, take a bag of frozen vegetables or an ice pack and press it against the outside of the window, right over the cling, for a few minutes-- or, wait until night time to remove them.

Window clings are not only great for holiday decorating, but to dress up windows between holidays with butterflies, ivy leaves, or your favorite cartoon characters. They can also be used to dress up mirrors, glass shower doors, glass furniture covers, or even the windows of your car. By making your own, you can always get exactly the design you want, in the colors that match your decor