

Monster Mud

Presented By Witch Creek Cemetery

What is Monster Mud? It's pretty simple. It's drywall compound and exterior latex paint. When mixed it creates a hard shell over almost anything you can think of. It's been around a long time and used in many applications. Once you've made your first project, your completely hooked. It's so much fun to work with and makes your props look amazing and last a long time.

I've listed your "shopping list" below. Let's play in the mud!

Shopping List & Supplies

- ◆ Drywall Compound
- ◆ Exterior Latex Paint
- ◆ 5 gallon bucket w/lid
- ◆ Gloves (optional)
- ◆ Paint Tarp
- ◆ Old Clothes (MM stains!)
- ◆ Fabric (old sheets, muslin, burlap, velvet, old clothes.
- ◆ Drywall mixer & drill (optional)
- ◆ Measuring bucket (optional)
- ◆ Project ready for MM
- ◆ Mixing tub (optional)

Recipe

Using your measuring method of choice, scoop up four parts compound and put it in your bucket. Mix one part paint and add it to the compound. I recommend making a large batch all at once. What you don't end up using can be stored for a later project. MM sets up pretty fast if the weather is warm. Make sure you have plenty to work with. You can mix this by hand or with a drywall mixer for your drill. Make sure to mix thoroughly getting out all the lumps. You will see these lumps on your prop if not mixed well. I like a more loose mud to work with. I add a little more paint to mine. I find the looser the mud the better my folds are and it doesn't seem so heavy. Its like more loose pancake batter.



It's time for a dress rehearsal. Once your water is squeezed out, drape it over your prop. Notice how it lays, the folds it creates and how it fits. Now is the time to do any trimming away of extra fabric. Once the mud is on the fabric it gets really heavy and hard to maneuver. Make sure your fabric is completely coated in mud. You don't want bare spots when you pull it out. It's also very important to pick fabric with no color or print. Its sometimes hard to cover. Now is the fun part! There's no right or wrong way to do this. If you don't like the look, peel it off and do it again, however, once it starts to dry it will flake and not look as nice. That's why pre dressing your monster is a very important step.



Monster Mud Class Supply List

This list will help you gather all the supplies for a 10 person (or 10 sculptures) class. Charging \$40-\$50 per sculpture should allow you to cover costs and make a little as well for your time and talent.

MUD

- 10 gallons of gray latex paint (recycled paint works great if your city does that) or if you want a different color you can use any color but red will be pink as it's mixing with a white joint compound so remember your color mixings from grade school)
- 10 gallons of pre-mixed joint compound – comes in 5 gallon buckets (dry takes longer to make)
- 1 or 2 – 5 gallon bucket of water for soaking fabric (not every person needs this just put a bunch in there and then switch them out as people grab to start their projects)

SUPPLIES

- 10 – Quart mixing cups
- 10 – Wood paint stir sticks
- 10 – 5 gallon buckets
- 10 – 5 gallon bucket lids
- Latex gloves
- Tarps or painters cloths or kiddie pools
- EZ-ups or covered area to apply mud and create sculptures then be able to move them into the sun or take the covers away. Items take time to dry, may have to finish the next day or plan for a hot afternoon class day.
- Mixing rod for a drill (prefer the bigger size for mixing 5 gallon buckets but the small will do it just takes longer)
- 10 – 1" chip brushes (the ones with the tan bristles)
- White or Ivory Cotton or microfiber sheets. Cut the hems and elastic off before using. Walmart sells microfiber twin sheet sets (flat fitted pillow) for \$5. That is enough for one skeleton reaper or tomb top skeleton. So figure 7 packages at least. I bought 8 packs which equaled 16 sheets and 8 pillow cases and we used about 10 of those for a 7 person class.

Tips

10 people is a good amount, over that is too much for one teacher so unless you have helpers stick with 10 or under

Ensure people wear items of clothing they do not care about, the mud will not come out most if not all fabrics, but it will chip off of glasses and plastics and such.

Do not wash monster mud off into interior sinks, use wash pans outside or a hose to get as much off as possible, it will clog pipes.

We made up all the joint compound and doled out the rest to each person in their bucket for them to take home to use later as well. Add a bit of bleach water to the top of mixture prior to closing the lid or the mud will grow into a nice science project (you can just scrape that growing layer off but it stinks. So just scoop up some bleach water from a mixing up and sprinkle it on top of the mixture mostly covering the top, it will not soak in and will not let the growth happen.