

Leaf Imprint Clay Pendants

Get ready to bring a little nature indoors with these beautiful leaf imprint clay pendants! This craft is perfect for kids and adults to explore the wonders of the outdoors while making unique, wearable art. Gather some leaves from your garden, park, or backyard, press them into soft clay, and create lovely pendants that capture the intricate details of the leaves. Whether you wear them as jewelry or use them as decor, these pendants will be a timeless keepsake of nature's beauty!



Materials List:

- **Air-dry clay** (soft and easy for little hands to work with!)
- **Leaves** (from your garden or a nature walk—different shapes and sizes!)
- **Rolling pin** (or any cylinder to flatten the clay)
- **Clay cutting tools** (or just use butter knives for safe crafting)
- **Straws or toothpicks** (for making pendant holes)
- **String, cord, or ribbon** (to turn your clay pieces into pendants)
- **Acrylic paints** (for decorating your pendants once they're dry!)
- **Paintbrushes** (for adding color and details)
- **Gloss sealer or Mod Podge** (optional, but great for a shiny finish)
- **Scissors** (to cut your string or ribbon)

Instructions: Let's Get Crafting!

1. **Find Your Perfect Leaf:** Start by collecting some leaves with interesting textures and veins. Oak, maple, or fern leaves work wonderfully! Make sure the leaves are clean and dry.
2. **Roll Out the Clay:** Take a piece of air-dry clay and roll it out until it's about 1/4 inch thick. You can use a rolling pin or anything cylindrical like a smooth bottle.
3. **Imprint the Leaf:** Place your leaf on top of the rolled-out clay with the vein side facing down. Gently press it into the clay, then carefully lift it off to reveal the beautiful leaf imprint!
4. **Cut the Pendant Shape:** Use a round cutter, a cookie cutter, or even the rim of a glass to cut out your pendant shape around the leaf imprint. You can also cut freehand for unique shapes!
5. **Make a Hole for the String:** Use a straw or toothpick to poke a hole at the top of your pendant so you can string it later. Make sure the hole is big enough for your cord or ribbon.
6. **Let It Dry:** Set your pendants aside to dry. Air-dry clay usually takes about 24 hours to harden completely, but check the package for drying times.
7. **Time to Decorate!** Once your pendants are fully dry, paint them with acrylic paints. You can highlight the leaf's texture with soft greens, golds, or any color that inspires you! Add extra details like dots or patterns around the edges if you like.
8. **Seal for Shine:** If you want your pendants to have a glossy finish, apply a thin layer of gloss sealer or Mod Podge once the paint is dry.
9. **String It Up:** Finally, thread some ribbon, cord, or string through the hole to make your pendant wearable. Tie a knot, and your beautiful leaf pendant is ready to be worn or displayed!

Craft Bonus: Add Some Flair!

Want to give your leaf pendants a little extra something? Try adding beads or small charms to the string for a more boho look. You can even press tiny flowers or textured fabric into the clay for additional patterns! If you're feeling extra creative, make a series of pendants with different leaves for a nature-inspired necklace set!