

Roman Coil Pots



Can I make a Roman coil pot?

- The hand building of pots using coils of clay is one of the earliest methods of constructing pottery and was used by Romans.
- Romans used the coil pot method for home-made coarse ware.
- Sometimes the coil pots were finished on a potter's wheel giving them a much smoother finish.

I don't have any clay...

Don't worry

- You can make some salted dough or playdough (recipes below)*
- You can scrunch up scarp paper or tinfoil into coils*
- You can use pipe cleaners and glue*

Salt dough

- 500 g plain flour - self raising flour will make the salt dough bubble as it dries especially in the oven.
- 500 g table salt - any fine cooking salt will work
- 250 ml warm water. Mix all together.

Create your pot and leave it to airdry for at least 24 hours

Playdough

- 250g plain flour
- 50g salt
- 140ml water
- 1 to 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- few drops food colouring (optional)
- Mix it all together.

Instructions

1. [Watch this video](#)
2. Begin by making the base for your pot. Take a piece of clay, and roll it out to a thickness of about one and a half centimetres thick. Cut out a circle from the clay, of the size that you want your pot base to be.
3. Now you'll need to make the sides of your pot using the coil method. To start this, roll a few large piece of clay into long thin snake shapes. You can choose the thickness,
4. Place one end of your first clay snake on top of one of the edges of the base, and begin to wind it around the outside of the base. Once you reach the end of the first piece, press it down firmly to secure it on the base.
5. Continue the coil process by adding the next 'snake' on top, building up vertically so that you have a good number of rings of clay.
6. As you reach towards your desired height, begin to taper to the pot inwards, reducing the size of each ring until you have a gap of just a few centimetres at the top.
7. Next, roll a ball of clay to place on top of the pot (the lid), ensuring that it's big enough to not fall in.
8. To finish your pot, you may wish to smooth over the joins of the coils with your fingers.