

# Marbling with Oil and Food Coloring

Since oil and water repel rather than mix, the oil marbling technique creates bubbles of color and white spots. Where there are oil bubbles, the water-based food coloring won't stick to the paper.

## MATERIALS

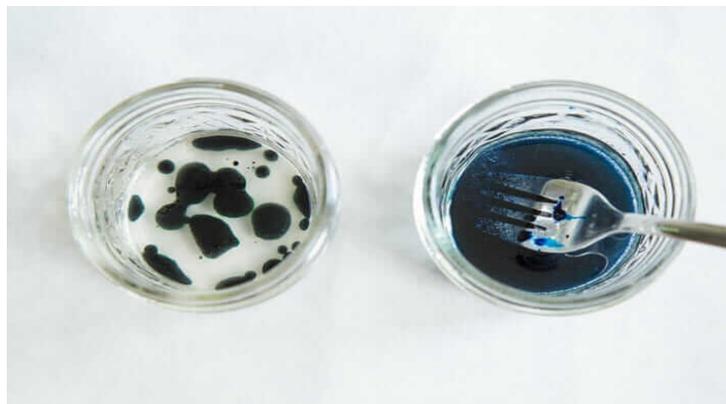
- Vegetable oil
- Food coloring or liquid watercolors
- Cardstock or watercolor paper, cut into halves or quarters
- Droppers (optional)
- Dishes and utensils (pie pan or baking dish, small cups or bowls, forks, spoons)

*\*Baby oil or mineral oil may work just as well*

## INSTRUCTIONS

### **Step 1. Mix Oil and Color**

Pour a small amount of vegetable oil into a dish and add food coloring.



Stir vigorously with a fork so the big drops of color are dispersed throughout the oil as smaller droplets.

Repeat with as many colors as you want to use.

## **Step 2. Add Oil + Color Mixture to Water**

Pour an inch of water, give or take, into a shallow pie pan or baking dish.

Use a dropper or spoon to transfer the oil + color mixture to the dish of water. Use one color or more.



## **Step 3. Marble Your Paper**

Lay your paper on top of the water...



...then lift to reveal your marbled paper.



Add more colors and repeat!

After a couple of rounds, the water may be too muddy or saturated to get a pleasing effect. At that point, you can dump the water and start fresh with a new layer of clean water.

## **Step 4. Let your marbled paper dry.**

Lay the newly marbled paper flat to dry.

*The paper is very oily at first, but as the artwork dries, the oil is absorbed into the paper and it no longer feels oily to the touch. Which means you can use it for notecards, DIY notebooks, buntings, and other crafts.*