

Ways to Make Your Own Cake Dummies

Real Cake– Bake the cake as you normally would with your favorite recipe. When done, invert onto a cookie sheet and bake another two hours at 250 degrees. The cake should be rock hard. Or, you may let it air dry for several days until hard. Decorate as desired.

Shaped Pan – Decorate directly on the pan with your choice of icing.

Sugar Mold – Measure the volume of the pan by pouring cups of water into the pan to the top edge. This will tell you how many cups of sugar are needed. Mix the sugar and water (2 teaspoons of water for each cup granulated sugar) until it feels like wet sand. Press into the pan and level down. Release from pan immediately onto a cookie sheet or firm board. Let dry for several days. If the mold breaks, you can use a hot glue to repair the mold. After the mold is dry, paint it using thinned royal icing. This seals the sugar mold. Decorate as desired.



Cardboard – It takes approximately 23 single-thick cardboards to make a 4” high cake. Tape them together then cut a strip of poster board 4” high by the circumference of your board, place this around the cake boards and tape to secure. Cover with royal icing and decorate as desired.

Styrofoam – This old standby can be cut into many different shapes. Decorate as desired. This type of “cake dummy” can be washed, dried and reused. You can also purchase various sizes from cake decorating and hobby shops.

Expandable Urethane Foam – This product is available in hardware stores and possible craft stores. It does not contain fiber glass and is used for insulation, to pack breakables, etc. It is lightweight and makes a great “foam” mold for displaying character cakes decorated with royal icing.

- Cut cardboard to fit the outline of the pan.
- Spray pan thoroughly with “Pam”
- In a well ventilated area (outdoors!) squirt foam in pan. Fill pan with foam until approximately 1/3 full.
- Place cardboard cutout on top of foam in pan, press down firmly.
- Weigh down the cardboard (Crisco can works well) to compress the expanding foam and minimize air bubbles in foam mold.
- Let dry for one hour and unmold. Air dry overnight and decorate with royal icing.
- This is a great, lightweight (easy to handle) store display piece with lots of detail that makes it easy to decorate the most intricate designs.

Paper Mache – Lightweight display piece and recycles old newspapers at the same time! In addition to regular shaped pans and character pans, this mixture can be packed into candy molds to make pins or for use as party trims.

- Tear newspaper (any type or color will do) into small pieces and soak in water for 3-4 hours. No specific amounts are called for but the paper should be immersed.
- Take some of the paper/water mixture and blend in blender until paper is mushy.
- Drain and pack into all crevices using a terry cloth towel to press the paper thoroughly into the mold and absorb excess water.
- You can make just the shell by backing the paper pulp in bottoms and sides of the pan, or you can fill the mold solid if you wish. (A solid piece will take a lot longer to dry).
- When completely dry, remove from pan.