

Plastic Worms

Activity adapted from: 4-H CCS Sportfishing Curriculum

Youth can continue to grow their skills by making their own tackle and artificial lures. While real worms are a popular sources of bait, plastic worms can be effective and provide more options in color and patterns. Youth are also not only proud of their catch, but that it was made using something they created.

Instructions

1. Mix plastic thoroughly to avoid a soft and sticky worm.
2. Pour plastic into the pan and heat over low until the liquid thickens and becomes clear.
3. If choosing to use plastic softener or hardener, add it to the plastic.
4. Shake the color well and add it and glitter (if desired) to the plastic.
5. Evenly pour the plastic into the molds and fill the cavity.
6. Allow the worms to cool for a few minutes.
7. Remove them from the molds and place them on wax paper or in a shallow pan of water to finish the cooling process.
8. Apply worm oil to the worms to keep them from sticking together and to scent them.

Reflection Questions

- What are the benefits of making your own plastic worms?
- What characteristics did you give your worms?
- Will these characteristics attract a particular type of fish?

Materials Needed

- Worm Molds
- Liquid Plastic (1 oz. can make about 6 worms)
- Plastic softener/hardener (optional)
- Plastic Coloring
- Glitter (optional)
- Worm Oils
- Source of heat (stove top or hot plate)
- Pan to mix materials over heat

Rigging a Plastic Worm

