

For Valentine's Day don't go farther than your back yard for a sweet, homemade gift!

ROSE PETAL BEADS

Making rose petal paste is simple. Toss several handfuls of rose petals into a blender along with enough water to just cover them. Run the blender on high until you've formed a paste. Transfer the paste to a bowl and place it into a tea strainer. Shake the strainer to remove as much excess water from the paste as possible. No matter what color of rose petals you use, the paste will turn brown. Transfer your rose petal puree into a container for storage.



Pick up a small amount of rose petal paste with your fingers and roll it into a ball. You'll want to make your beads larger than what you need since they'll shrink somewhat when drying. Use a thin nail to make a hole while the bead is still damp. Allow your beads to dry in a warm place for around five days until completely dry. Then string to make a necklace. Below is an example of mixing the rose beads with other beads, though you could make the necklace entirely of rose beads.



To keep the necklace smelling like roses, store it in an envelope or box.