

# Plaster Tracks in a Bowl – MN Project WILD

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Each team of students will need:

- 1 disposable foam bowl*
- 1 cup Plaster of Paris in a zip-lock sandwich bag*
- 3 oz Dixie Cup of water*
- 1 rubber animal track*

*Additional supplies: hand lotion, paint, food coloring*

## PROCEDURE

Have each team decide who will be the “track” person, and who will be the “mixer.”

The Track person on each team selects a track and applies hand lotion liberally to cover all surfaces.

Meanwhile, the Mixer chooses two food colors to use (optional), and adds a few drops to the plaster in the bag. Then add the 3 ounce Dixie cup of water to the bag, seal tightly, and gently start working the bag to mix the contents. It should be the consistency of a smoothie when it’s ready to pour, so add a bit more water if needed. If you accidentally add too much water and the plaster is on the thin side, that’s OK – it will still work.

Once the contents are mixed, snip the corner of the bag and gently squeeze the contents into the bowl.

The Track person then gives the bowl a gentle shake to level the plaster, then puts the track into the wet plaster, leaving the smooth back of the track exposed on top. You will need a corner of the track to grab onto to pull it out once the plaster dries, so don’t totally submerge the track.

Wait several hours, or overnight, before removing the rubber track. You can pop the dried track out of the bowl and reuse the bowls another time to make tracks, or leave it in. Paint them if you wish. Clean tracks and return to their storage bags.

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Want to make large tracks like bear and moose? Look for foam dinnerware that has XL serving bowls and deep plates.

Make an extra track or two just in case someone’s track doesn’t come out well – they’ll have something to take home then.

Silicone track replicas can be purchased from [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com)

DNR Track Packs are \$10/week to rent, plus return shipping. [Jan.welsh@state.mn.us](mailto:Jan.welsh@state.mn.us) to reserve.

Plaster of Paris can be found at home stores like Menards.



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