

Breastmilk Preservation Powder

Instructions from Keepsaker Supplies

Look after the environment and don't print these. The instructions cover working with UV or epoxy resin. Send your client a breastmilk sending kit, see our [Worldwide Sourcing Guides here](#) – including the [UK](#), [USA](#), [Australia](#) and [Canada](#) (more countries coming soon) for details on the tubes we recommend, which are also suitable for heating directly although that's not needed for this method.

You'll need the following supplies

- [Breastmilk Preservation Powder](#) exclusive to us here at Keepsaker Supplies, or one of our [one of our DIY breastmilk jewellery kits](#)
- These PDF downloadable instructions for preserving breastmilk
- your client's breastmilk or breastmilk substitute (formula, fortified plant milk for example)
- [a small freezer](#)*
- a [dust mask](#)
- [vinyl gloves](#)
- a small saucepan and a small bowl which fits on top
- or a [double boiler/bain marie like this](#)*
- [table top boiling hob](#) or stovetop
- [silicone spatula](#)
- [label backing paper](#)
- [a white pestle and mortar](#)
- [sealable mylar bags](#)*
- [Sharpie](#)*
- [takeaway containers](#)*
- storage drawer unit*
- [silica gel bags](#)*

*Some of the supplies in these instructions are optional, such as the double boiler and the silica drying gel. They're marked with an asterisk and are completely optional but recommended

How To Preserve Breastmilk Or Breastmilk Substitute Using Breastmilk Preservation Powder from Keepsaker Supplies

Instructions

1. Put on PPE (gloves and respirator are recommended)
2. Make sure your client has sent in the right amount of milk. We recommend asking them to send two small tubes each with around 5ml milk. If your client has low supply you may ask them to keep the second tube in their own freezer at home, in case the first is lost in the post. If you burn the milk, for example, you can then ask them to send the second tube.

You can also ask them to send 15ml in a milk storage bag; ask them to measure the milk in a bottle and not to rely on the markings on the bag because they can be deceptive.

When a bag of milk arrives, divide it into two small bags and label it with the client's name and order number so you can keep one back in the freezer

3. Put boiling water in the bottom saucepan. Double check your client's name and order number and put the tube in the water to defrost for a minute. Remove the milk and give it a gentle shake
4. Bring the water to a boil. Put the top bowl on the saucepan, allow to heat and add the breastmilk. When the milk is hot, add the powder and immediately begin to stir. It will fizzle up then thicken gradually
5. Take it off the heat when it's thick and don't let it dry out too much

DRYING THE PRESERVED BREASTMILK

6. Spread the preserved wet milk paste onto the label backing paper or baking parchment labelled with the client's name and order number. Leave this to dry somewhere safe. It depends on the humidity and temperature of the room as to how long this takes, anywhere from 24 hours to a few days
7. When preserving breastmilk with Breastmilk Preservation Powder I like to place the label backing paper in a takeaway container over silica drying bead packs. The drying gel will remove the moisture quickly and the gel can be refreshed in the microwave from time to time to remove moisture
8. Clean the bowl or bain marie. We like to store the takeaway containers in a storage drawer unit until dry

GRINDING THE PRESERVED DRIED BREASTMILK

9. Put a small amount of the preserved dried breastmilk flakes, as much as you will need for the client's order, into a clean white pestle and mortar. Grind it as finely as you can. The finer it's ground, the better it will suspend in the resin and the more opaque the piece will look
10. Put the rest of the dried milk into a double-sealed bag labelled with the client's name and order number, along with a silica sachet and reserve

LEFTOVER BREASTMILK

11. Please keep the remaining frozen breastmilk as a backup, we recommend two years. At [Tree of Opals](#) we had a small under-counter freezer which was plenty large enough to store three years worth of breastmilk (thousands of 10ml tubes)
12. If you allow your clients to send in large bags of milk, such as 10oz full-to-the-brim bags, you will quickly run out of room. If you send clients a breastmilk sending kit with two pre-labelled tubes, they will always be neat, well-labelled and organised
13. If you are charging the client a preservation fee you may agree to send them the rest of the dried preserved milk, but most artists keep it in as a second back-up in case they

need to remake the piece in the future

WORKING WITH BREASTMILK POWDER

14. You can work with breastmilk as you would any powdered substance like cremation ashes or resin sparkle mix
15. If you're working with epoxy resin you can pre-mix it in a 20ml disposable shot glass or reusable silicone mixing pot, add breastmilk powder, then use a pipette to transfer it into the mould
16. If you're working with UV resin, you can mix a little of the powder with resin on label backing paper with a lollipop stick to form a paste, then fill your mould with resin and add the paste
17. You might like to add a bit of one of our exclusive [Breastmilk Resin Sparkle Mixes \(Pearly Powders\)](#), our [Unicorn White resin sparkle mix](#), or even a tint from one of one of our highly pigmented resin sparkle mix blends. All of our sparkle mixes contain ethical micas (free from child mining) and plant based glitters
18. UV resin is much faster, but there's an increased risk of yellowing especially with clients who don't follow the care instructions! However, some people (like myself) are allergic to epoxy resin so we can only offer UV resin and are very strict about aftercare
19. Keeping the milk back for at least two years, frozen and dried, will mean you can replace any pieces that have turned due to resin issues

breastmilk bubble ring, classic breastmilk with dark blonde hair and subtle white gold leaf, bubble band ring, 8mm cabochon



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