

Resin Art Starter Checklist

Everything a beginner needs to gather before that very first pour.

Resin can feel intimidating at first — but almost every early frustration comes down to missing a small tool or skipping a safety step. Print this checklist, tick off each item as you gather it, and you'll walk up to your workspace fully prepared and confident. Save the guesswork for your designs, not your setup.

1 Safety First (Non-Negotiables)

- ☐ **Nitrile gloves** — never latex — resin degrades it quickly
- ☐ **Respirator with organic-vapor cartridges** — a dust mask is not enough
- ☐ **Safety glasses**
- ☐ **Apron or old long-sleeved clothing**
- ☐ **Ventilation** — open window plus a fan pulling air away from you

2 Your Resin Kit

- ☐ **Beginner-friendly epoxy resin** — a 1:1 mix ratio is the easiest to start with
- ☐ **Matching hardener** — buy resin and hardener as a set
- ☐ **Know your working time & cure time** — check the pot life on the label

3 Measuring & Mixing

- ☐ **Graduated measuring cups** — clearly marked in ml or oz
- ☐ **Silicone mixing cups** — cured resin peels right out
- ☐ **Wooden stir sticks or a silicone spatula**
- ☐ **Digital scale** — only if your resin mixes by weight
- ☐ **A timer** — so you never guess at pot life

4 Color & Effects

- ☐ **Mica powders** — for shimmer and metallic tones
- ☐ **Liquid resin dyes or alcohol inks**
- ☐ **White & black pigment** — for opacity, depth, and shading
- ☐ **Optional add-ins** — glitter, gold leaf, dried flowers

5 Molds & Surfaces

- ☐ **Silicone molds** — start simple: coasters, trays, keychains
- ☐ **Mold release spray** — optional, but makes demolding easier
- ☐ **A level surface** — confirm it with a small spirit level
- ☐ **Painter's tape** — to dam edges and seal seams

6 Finishing Touches

- ☐ **Heat gun or torch** — to release trapped bubbles
- ☐ **Toothpicks** — for guiding details and popping stubborn bubbles
- ☐ **Sandpaper, 400–2000 grit** — for smoothing edges
- ☐ **Polish or a flood coat** — for that glassy final shine

7 Workspace Setup

- ☐ **Silicone mat or plastic sheeting** — to protect your table
- ☐ **A warm, dust-free room** — roughly 70–75°F / 21–24°C
- ☐ **A box or cover** — to keep dust off while it cures
- ☐ **Paper towels & isopropyl alcohol** — for quick cleanup

First-Pour Tip

Begin with one simple coaster mold and a single color. Measure precisely, then stir slowly for three full minutes — scraping the sides and bottom the whole time. Let the bubbles rise on their own before you reach for the torch. Master one clean, confident pour before you ever attempt layers or embeds.

Ready for your first project? Explore beginner-friendly tutorials, tool guides, and troubleshooting help in our Resin Art library.

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