

# The Alabama Solar Association, *Sundial*

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## Solar Crayon Recycling

Want to see solar power and recycling working together? Recycle your tiny crayon pieces into creative art work. Turn ugly, broken crayon pieces into beautiful, fresh, shiny new fun shapes.

Have an adult help you gather the things you'll need:

- Crayon pieces of all sizes and colors
- A plastic candy mold
- Old cups to melt your crayon pieces in
- A spoon
- A microwave oven
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Plastic snack bags
- Cardboard pieces cut from cereal boxes or other liner board; it's better to reuse cardboard than to recycle it.

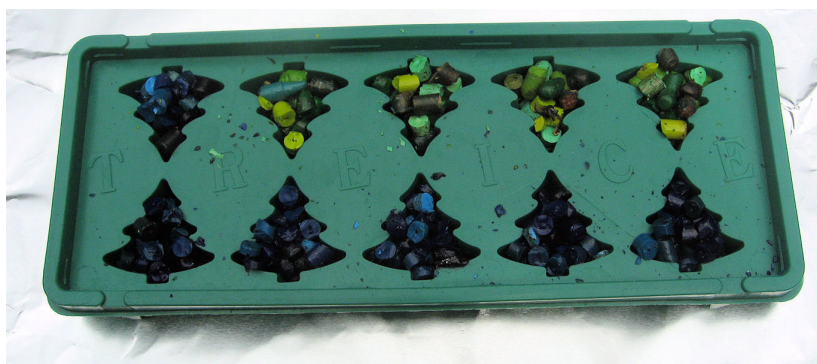
### How to do it:

Step 1: Peel the paper off of all the crayons.

Step 2: Break longer crayons into small pieces. Some say this is the most fun part of the project.

Step 3: Sort pieces into similar colors.

Step 4: Generously fill each candy mold with desired color combination. You can get some dynamic new colors by carefully selecting colors to blend.



Step 5: Place the candy trays outside in direct sunlight on top of a piece of heavy duty aluminum foil, shiny side up. When the crayons are melted in the sun they won't completely mix together. The result is a very cool looking swirl effect.

Look at you using solar energy as your source of heat...how "green."

Step 6: After half a day, go outside and check on the molds. The crayon pieces should be melted down to a swirly-whirly liquid. The green mold (right) has been in the sun longer, and the pieces are beginning to melt.



If the sun doesn't quite do the job, you may have to ask an adult to let the microwave help. Place crayon pieces into a microwave-safe cup and heat on high from 3-5 minutes. Ask the adult to pour the liquid into the candy molds.

Step 7: Ask an adult to bring the extremely hot liquid inside to cool. This shouldn't take too long.

Step 8: Allow the liquid crayon gook to cool and harden. This is usually a pretty quick process.



Step 9: Remove the fresh and shiny fun-shaped crayons from the candy mold carefully by twisting the edges of the candy mold back and forth. The new crayons should pop right out.

Step 10: Enjoy your new uniquely shaped and colored crayons.

Step 11 (Optional): Carefully place a crayon in a plastic snack bags. Cut labels out of a recycled cereal box. Mark it as "100% Recycled Crayon. Made by..." They make great holiday gifts.

Check next month's Sundial to learn how to make recycled paper for your new crayons.

Thank you for using solar power to recycle.

Morton