home-made paste

This paste is environmentally kind, biodegradeable, completely non-toxic – and super cheap! There are no nasty fumes to breathe in, it won't harm your skin or stain your clothes.

I've found it to be really pleasant to work with and it's also a paste that's safe enough for young children. If kids get it in their eyes, eat it, paint the wall... or the dog - it's all ok.

Clean up is easy. Rinse your brushes with water and wipe down surfaces with a damp cloth.

- **Step 1** Gradually pour cold water into flour and mix well. You want to make it as smooth, as possible, mixing out any lumps. I recommend using a stick blender if you have one, otherwise a good old-fashioned wisk will do the trick.
- **Step 2** Pour the 3 cups of boiling water into a pot on the stove and keep it simmering on a medium heat.
- **Step 3** Gradually pour the cold-water paste mix into the boiling water, wisking as you go, or using the stick blender on a medium setting. At this point you really want to mix out any lumps you might have missed before.
- Step 4 Set a timer to cook for 5 minutes and keep stirring, a soft spatula is perfect for this! If you have had any experience making custard, gravy or any flour based sauces on the stove top, it's very similar. Be patient while it thickens, and don't let it stick on the bottom of the pot...
- Step 5 By the time the 5 minutes is up, it should have thickened as it cools it will thicken more. Pour the paste into clean glass jar or plastic container. It's ready to use while it's still warm if you are keen to get started! Or you can pop it in the fridge for later. Refridgerated, the paste should keep well for at least a month.

You may find a "skin" appears on the top of the paste as it starts to cool. This is normal.

Once the mixture has completely cooled, you can scoop it off the top and discard.

The paste may "set" much like a soft jelly. You can dip your brush in and use it like that or give it another quick whisk if you prefer a smoother consistency.

