

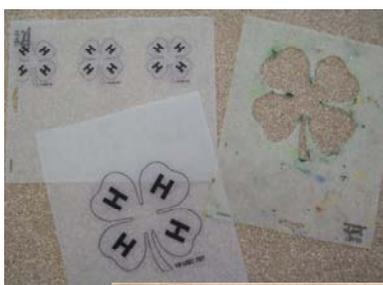
4-H Welcome Mats



Have you ever wondered what carpet stores do with all of their outdated carpet samples? Well here is a project that will recycle these carpet samples into a creative and fun craft. Carpet squares usually come in two sizes: 17" X 27" and 13 ½" X 17". These can be found at any carpet store for free or a minimal charge. Most supplies for this project can be found in any craft department.

You will need:

- Carpet squares
- Stencil brushes
- Acrylic craft paint (variety of colors)
- Variety of stencils
- Masking tape
- Blank paper
- Pencils
- Newspaper
- Paint trays or egg cartons
- Cups to rinse brushes
- Soapy water to wash stencils
- Paper towel to dry stencils



Selecting or making stencils:

Look for stencils that will be fun and appealing to kids. You can also make your own stencils! Blank stencil sheets can be purchased in a craft store. You can then trace, print or copy on them and cut them out. If you plan to make your own stencils for children to use, they should be cut out by an adult.



4-H Cloverbuds
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Instructions:

1. Have Cloverbuds choose a carpet square and stencils.
2. Names can be written on the back of the carpet square for identification.
3. Using blank paper, have the Cloverbuds make a sketch of the design they want to paint on the rug.
4. Lay the first stencil on the rug. Hold it down firmly or use masking tape.
5. Using a stencil brush, dip the end of the bristles in the paint. Be careful not to apply too much paint.
6. Dab the paint all over the design you wish to stencil. Do not brush. Tap the end of the brush up and down until the area is covered.
7. Gently remove the stencil from the rug and thoroughly wash the brush and stencil.
8. Move on to the next stencil. Be careful not to smudge the paint on the designs that you have already painted.



Hints:

- To speed the drying process and prevent smudging you can use a hairdryer in between designs.
- If using letter stencils you can use a strip of masking tape as a guide to make sure the letters are straight.



Using masking tape as a guide.



Tape holding stencil in place.



Dabbing paint on stencil.



Keep stencil from smudging wet paint.

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