



Make a Mess

Salad Spinner Spin Art

What you need:

- Salad spinner
- Paper plates or thick paper - cut into a circle to fit in your spinner
- Washable tempera paint—see “Things to Try” below for a note about paint
- Squeeze bottles or similar for paint – if needed
- Tablecloth, newspaper, old sheet, etc.



What you do:

1. Clear space on a flat surface, like a dining room table. Cover with a tablecloth, newspaper, anything you don't mind getting paint on. It's helpful to tape your covering down to keep it from moving around.
2. Use the basket inside the salad spinner to trace a circle on your paper or paper plate. Cut your paper into circles or trim your paper plates if needed.
3. Place a paper circle in your salad spinner.
4. Pick the paint colors you want to start with. Add small “plops” of paint to your paper plate. *A little paint goes a long way!* You don't need a lot. You can always add more. If your paint doesn't come in a squeeze bottle, you can also use a spoon or dropper to drop small amounts onto your paper.
5. Put the lid on salad spinner and spin, spin, spin! The lid must be on properly for salad spinner to spin.
6. When salad spinner comes to a stop, carefully remove lid to reveal your unique piece of spin art! What happened to the paint? Do you notice any new colors?

Things to try:

- This is a great activity to explore color mixing. Have a limited selection of paint colors? What colors can you mix up in your salad spinner? Or, try purposely limiting the colors you use – start with the primary colors (red, yellow, and blue) and see what other colors emerge.
- At the museum, we like to use a thick paint like washable tempera for this activity. But you can experiment with whatever (washable, non-toxic) paint you have on hand.