



# SILVER AWARD PROJECT IDEAS



typically 30 hours of project work



## Make your own lipstick

**Before you start your investigation, you should carry out a risk assessment and have it checked by your teacher. For help with this, read through our health and safety information and look out for health and safety warnings in the text.**

In this project, you will make your own lipstick or lip gloss and investigate how lipsticks are coloured. You will do some tests to compare your lipstick to a shop-bought one



You should test your lipsticks on the back of your hand rather than on your lips. Only test your lipstick if it has been made hygienically in a food technology room with chemicals fit for human consumption.

### Getting started

First things first, find a lipstick or a lip gloss recipe. These are readily available if you have a look on the internet- try searching for “homemade lipstick”.



Make sure your information comes from a reliable source. Always complete a risk assessment and have it checked by your teacher before you start your experiment.

### Picking the pigments

- Carry out some research into how lipstick is coloured. What are pigments, and how do they vary?
- You should now make your own coloured lipstick or lip gloss - or preferably both!
- Experiment with different pigments and amounts of pigments until you have the desired colour.
- Now you've experimented with different pigments, do you think you could work out how to copy any coloured lipstick? If you think you can, have a go!
- Design and make a mould for the lipstick. You could recycle old lipstick containers.



Be alert to the hazards of the pigments. Remember some people may be allergic to some pigments.

## The lippy tests

When you've made your lipsticks, you should design some tests. Think about the sorts of properties you want to test. Here are some suggestions:

- **Resistance to water and cleaning products:** You could apply some to the back of your hand and try rubbing it off with tissue, with water, or with make-up remover. Make sure you design a fair test.
- **Covering Power:** You could apply some to a glass slide and try shining a light through it. You'll have to think of a way to detect the light that comes through the other side. This will give an indication of the lipstick's transparency. You should be able to work out how much you have to apply in order to give your lips a 'solid' coat. Of course, if you test lip gloss you may want it to be transparent.



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You could try testing shop-bought lipsticks and lip glosses as well. How do they compare to your product? Which do you think offers the best value for money?

## Re-writing the recipe

When you've made your lipstick and carried out a few tests, you should re-write the recipe. Make it as unambiguous as possible. That way anyone who follows your recipe should make identical lipsticks. You could include illustrations as well.

For a similar project at Gold level try 'The perfect colour lipstick'