



## Crystal Dry™ – Flower Drying Silica Crystals

Professional-grade desiccant designed for fast and highly effective drying of flowers, leaves and other organic matter prior to resin encapsulation.

Our simple guide will explain step-by-step how to dry your flowers, how to regenerate the crystals for more uses and best practise to get great results, including which flowers to avoid, the colours that dry best and a guide to drying times.

Our white flower drying silica crystals have a fine grain size of 0.5mm to 1mm, and are ideal for drying all flowers including smaller, more delicate flowers where the beads can get between the petals to decrease the drying time without causing damage to the petals or leave your petals looking dusty. Drying times can vary from 3-8 days, more information on drying time can be found in the guide.

Note: Once dried remove the flowers from the silica crystals and use or store in an empty air-tight container until ready to use.

Crystal Dry™ can be used over and over again, making it great value for money. Eventually the crystals will become ineffective when they have absorbed too much moisture. When this happens, the crystals can be recharged by gentle heating and used many times more by repeating this process. See full details on how to get the most out of the product in the 'Reactivation' section below.

### What you'll need:

A suitable sized airtight container

A pair of scissors or garden secateurs

### Method:

- Decant a layer of Crystal Dry™ Flower Drying Silica Crystals into the base of your airtight container
- Trim your selected flowers, leaving approximately 1-2cm of stem for handling  
It helps to cut the stem on a 45° angle as this will maximise the surface area that moisture can be drawn out of
- Gently place the flowers stem down into the crystals leaving space between each flower head and ensure the flowers aren't touching the side of the container
- When all flowers have been inserted, carefully pour more crystals around the flowers, when the petals are supported from below pour the crystals inside the flower head. Taking care not to squash or flatten the bloom
- Seal the container and leave in a warm, dry place for a minimum of 3 days  
Various factors could affect the drying time, if your flowers are not dry in 3 days, cover and reseal for more time and check the things that affect drying times section below
- Remove the flowers very carefully as the petals will now be much more delicate than when you put them in. If possible, pour off some of the crystals, then very gently lift each flower head out by scooping your fingers or a stick (or similar) underneath and lifting slowly. Try not to touch the petals and turn over holding the stem. Tap lightly to dislodge any crystals stuck inside
- If the flower isn't dry, place back in the crystals, cover and replace the lid and leave for more time.





## Things that affect the drying time:

There are various factors that can affect the drying times of flowers, leaves and other organic matter.

- The amount of silica crystals used
- The less air space in the container
- How many times the crystals have been used previously
- The size of the flowers
- The type of flowers
- The colour of the flowers
- The environment – the container needs to be airtight and stored in a warm, dry place
- How fresh the flowers are when you start the drying process

## Flowers:

Getting the best results when drying flowers can be affected by many different factors. To give you the best chance of preserving your flowers the following information should help you get the best results.

Most flowers will dry successfully in Crystal Dry™ and this particular drying process is very helpful when drying flowers that readily shed their petals, such as poppies or large flat flowers

Flowers that dry successfully:

Dahlias, roses, delphiniums, marigolds, hydrangeas, camellia, daisy, iris, sunflower, pinks, pansies, dianthus, freesias, anemones, peonies and more.

## Colours of flowers:

As most flowers dry, you may notice some colour change. For example, darker coloured flowers, especially reds, purples and blues may appear much darker after drying. White flowers generally develop a more creamy or even very light brown colour. Some pale shades may dry a lighter shade.

Note: any flowers left in direct sunlight will fade more quickly.





## Reactivation:

Crystal Dry™ can be used multiple times to dry flowers but, will become less effective as the crystals absorb more moisture. It will become obvious when the crystals are not drying very well when the drying times increase. At this point the crystals need to be recharged or reactivated through gentle heating:

To reactivate the crystals, follow these simple steps:

- Pre-heat oven to 100-120°C
- Spread out the product on an oven proof tray
- Put in the oven for approximately 2 hours
- When regenerated store in an airtight container until required for use
- Recharging will work several times and should be replaced when recharging is having little no effect.

## Safety:

- Crystal Dry™ is non-toxic, non-flammable and inert
- If you are working in an enclosed space, it is advisable to wear a dust mask, alternatively work outdoors or by an open door/window
- The crystals are graded 0.5 – 1mm, some dust particles can remain, and you may wish to wear gloves
- Keep out of reach of children and pets. Children under 14 should be supervised at all times
- Do not eat
- Inhalation: May cause irritation – remove patient to fresh air
- Ingestion: May cause discomfort – drink plenty of water
- Skin contact – may cause dryness – rinse affected area with clean water
- Eye contact – rinse with clean water for a minimum of 15 minutes
- If symptoms persist – seek medical attention
- Any items used in the storage and drying of the crystals should not be used for food

## Disclaimer:

Our advice, whether verbal or in writing, is given in good faith and to the best of our knowledge. GlassCast Resin gives no warranty, express or implied and advice and support is provided upon condition that users conduct their own tests to determine the quality, suitability, and compatibility of this product for their own application and circumstances.

