

How to Make a Foam Dot Roller

By Sarah Duff

This method is great if you need to reach high windows, because you can attach a pole extender to the roller!

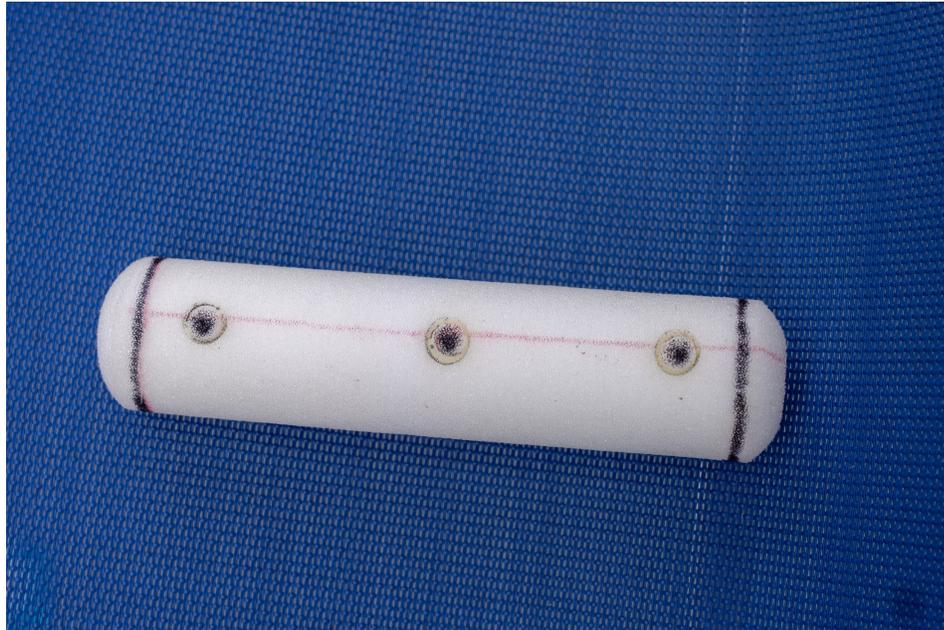
INSTRUCTIONS:

We're going to be modifying a 6" foam paint roller. They are usually labeled "for cabinets and doors" and can be found at most hardware stores. They should be smooth foam. Once you make the roller, you will be able to use it over and over again!

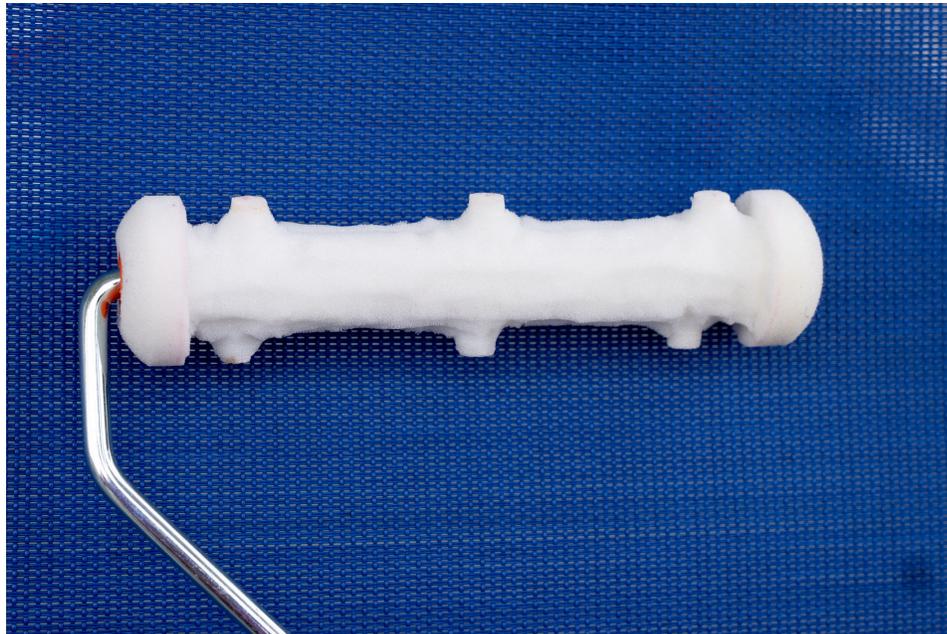
Other supplies:

1. A marker.
 2. A measuring tape.
 3. A stainless-steel drinking straw with an inner diameter of .25" (don't drink out of it after this).
 4. A candle.
 5. Heavy gloves.
 6. Small scissors.
 7. A small foam brush.
 8. White tempura/acrylic paint.
1. Using the measuring tape and marker, make three dots along the side of your roller. The middle dot should be at the 3" mark. Then add dots 2" away to the left and right.
 2. Repeat this step on the exact opposite side of the roller. This will leave you with two rows of 3 dots. The more accurate this is, the better your dots will line up when you roll them out. You can also alternate the center dots to make a diamond shape pattern instead of lines.
 3. Draw two thin "bumpers" around both ends. This will keep the roller the correct distance from the glass.
 4. **Do this step in a well-ventilated area with an adult wearing heavy gloves.** Very carefully hold one end of your metal straw above the lit candle for 15-

20 seconds. Once heated enough, place the hot end of the straw on the foam, over the dots you marked in steps one and two. The straw should easily melt through the foam, leaving you with perfect circles. You may want to practice this on a spot on the roller away from any marks to test it first.



5. Use the scissors to carefully cut away everything that isn't the dots or bumpers.



6. **Now you're ready to paint!** First, make sure the glass you're treating is clean and dry. We will be painting the **outside** of your window. Use the small foam brush to apply the paint to the dots on your roller. **Do not apply paint to the bumpers.**



7. Start at the top left or right of your window and carefully roll it straight down. You want the dots to start no more than two inches from the edges of your window and from each other. Move to the left or right and repeat! Reapply paint to the dots as needed. You should be able to roll down the length of a glass sliding door before you need to reapply paint.



8. Once you're finished, gently wash your roller and foam brush with water, let air dry, and store them for next time. If the window is in a public place you may also want to write a note that says something like "These dots save birds! Visit StopBirdCollisions.org to find out more" So that others may be inspired to do the same!

Thank you for helping to protect birds! You rock!