

## How to Get Your Own Set of Write-On Response Cards

Most big home improvement stores (e.g., Home Depot, Lowe's) carry "shower board" or "tile board," a white laminate material that makes excellent write-on response cards (RC). I recently paid \$15.00 per 4 ft. x 8 ft. sheet at a Home Depot in Columbus, Ohio.

Cutting the sheet into 9 in. by 12 in. pieces will yield 40 RC from one 4 ft. x 8 ft. sheet. (Cutting only 28 9x12 RC from a 4 x 8 sheet will leave a 36 in. x 48 in. piece, which could be used as an easel, to post student performance data, etc.) Ask the person helping you to use the store's panel saw to cut the sheet into 9 in. by 4 ft. strips. These strips can then be stacked four or five together and cut into 9 in. by 12 in. RCs. (Home Depot did the first 6 cuts for free and charged \$.25 for each additional cut.) You may want to smooth the edges of each RC with sandpaper once you get them home. Some teachers put colored plastic tape around the edges to keep them smooth. Total cost for 40 RC should be no more than \$16.00-\$20.00. That's much better than paying \$45.00 to \$79.95 for 12 RC from one of the outfits that sell RC on the Internet.

"Dry erase" markers are recommended because students can easily and quickly, erase their responses with paper napkins or toweling. Old wash rags or socks tied in a knot also make good erasers. Dry erase markers can be obtained at any office supply store (e.g., Staples, OfficeMax) and are about \$.75 each if bought in quantity (one good brand is "EXPO"). Dry erase markers will last a long time if students keep them capped and stored horizontally in their desks. Wax-type "china markers" are less expensive, but responses written with them are harder to erase cleanly. If you know or learn about other good sources, materials, or procedures for making and using response cards, please let me know.

Remember: Keep your students responding!!!

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