

Hypertufa Stepping Stone

Hypertufa looks like rock, can be cast into almost any shape and is strong enough to withstand Kansas winters. It is lightweight, as compared to similar objects made from cement.

To get started, you will need the following supplies:

- Tub or bucket to mix ingredients
- Rubber gloves
- Mask (to avoid breathing dust)
- 10 inch plastic saucer to use as a mold
- Plastic bag

Here's our favorite hypertufa recipe (*enough to make one 10" stone, increase amounts for larger projects*):

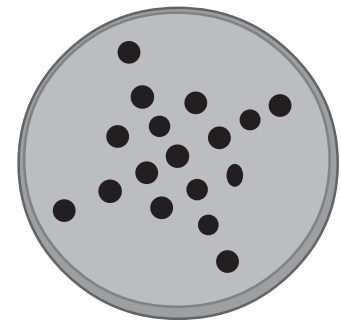
- 3 1/3 cups Portland cement (NOT the kind you just mix with water)
- 4 1/2 cups vermiculite
- 4 1/2 cups peat moss or potting mix

Mix the three dry ingredients together.

- 2 1/2 cups water
- 1/8 cup acrylic bonding agent
- Optional—concrete dye (use white Portland cement)
- Up to an additional 2 cups of water

Add the acrylic bonding agent to 2 1/2 cups of water.

Mix the liquid mixture with the dry ingredients. Slowly add more water as needed to achieve a 'cookie dough' consistency. (The amount of water will vary from batch to batch so be careful not to add too much at one time.)



When thoroughly mixed, fill your mold with hypertufa. Press it down tightly. We recommend leaving a slight mound in the center so water will run off. Decorate with colored decorative stones, pebbles, marbles... use your imagination.

- Place in a plastic bag (or cover with plastic). TUCK the open end under the stepping stone. DON'T SEAL the bag.
- Leave undisturbed for 24 hours.
- After 24 hours, the stepping stone may be removed from the mold.
- You may use a table knife to lightly smooth the edges of your stone.
- Remove any residue on the colored decorative stones with a damp cloth.
- Put the stepping stone back inside the plastic bag for 5-7 days, TUCKING the open end under the stepping stone. DON'T SEAL the bag.
- Let your stone dry at room temperature. Fast drying from excessive heat may cause cracking.
- Stone will lighten in color over time.