

Bird Bath Bowl Instructions



General preparations

Additional Items Needed:

- *ready mix concrete mix (30 lbs for olive branch bowl or 40 pounds for large bowl)
- *mixing tub or wheelbarrow
- *mixing tool, I.e. small shovel or garden hoe
- *Lubricant or a mold

- **Prepare the molds** using a lubricant or a mold release. This will help in removing the casting from the mold later and may extend the life of the mold itself. We recommend the use of any concrete release agent, cooking spray or petroleum jelly (use sparingly).
- **Mix the concrete** according to the instructions from the concrete manufacturer, mixing a small amount of water at a time until you achieve a consistency that is well mixed, and is thick, not runny; similar to the consistency of crunchy peanut butter.

Casting Bird Bath Bowl Molds

1. Begin by **pouring only about 1/3** of the concrete mixture into the mold.
2. Gently shake and tap the bottom and sides of the mold to eliminate all air bubbles. Continue by pouring the mixture in small batches stopping each time to shake and bounce out the air bubbles. When filled, the top of the concrete/mortar should be flat and even.
3. Keep the mold in a **dry** area to cure **for 24 to 48 hours** on a level surface in moderate temperature.

Using Your Concrete Bird Bath Bowl

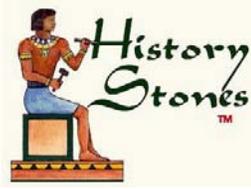
- Use with History Stones elegant baluster pedestal (pictured at right with large bird bath bowl)
- Use your own pedestal
- Use thin set mortar to attach bowl to pedestal

Optional decorative techniques:

- You may add concrete colorant directly to your wet concrete mix for solid color (sold at hardware & home improvement stores next to concrete)
- You may stain your finished concrete piece
- The olive branch detail looks beautiful when painted with concrete paints
- The large bird bath bowl is well suited for adding mosaic pieces. There are many books and online sources on how to create with mosaics.
- Always seal your finished concrete bird bath with concrete sealant which will protect your bird bath and help it's finish last
- To clean your finished bird bath it is easiest to spray with the hose each time you water your garden to keep it fresh



Enjoy the process and make some to share!



FAQ's

1. What type of concrete should I buy?

Any type/brand of basic ready mix concrete

2. My concrete has air bubbles in the surface, why?

Remember — concrete is a natural substance and this is the natural characteristic of concrete. That said, you can minimize bubbles by:

- Do not use too much lubricant, just a light spray
- Pour concrete just a few inches at a time so you can stop and shake/tap on the mold to bring the majority of air bubbles to the surface
- If you have surface bubbles/irregularities that you do not like in your finished concrete you can patch them up by mixing up a bit of the same concrete (omit the aggregate/stones) and patch it, using a damp sponge.

3. My dried concrete piece cracked when I removed it from the mold! What's wrong with your mold?!

- It's not the mold! The most common problem is using concrete that has been exposed to dampness. Cement is the adhesive property in concrete and if a concrete bag has been sitting around for a while, especially with a tear in it, even just plain humidity can ruin the bag. Use a new bag that does not show any sign of dampness or rips.
- Rarely, but it can happen — too much water in your mix. Mix to the consistency of chunky peanut butter, not soup.

4. How many times can I use my mold?

Most molds will be fine for 25 uses, and most of our customers (13 years worth of customers) say they get many more.

Tips to take good care of your molds

- Do not leave them sitting out in the sun
- Wash them out afterwards, dish soap and water works well
- Especially — do not rest the mold on the lip when turning over to remove castings — this eventually breaks down the mold

Other tips:

In cold weather — Plastic gets harder and stiffer in cold weather. If trouble removing from molds, set them out in the sun till plastic is warm., or use a hair blow dryer, but be careful to not melt the plastic. Do not cast in temperatures close to freezing.

In warm weather — let molds set up in the shade, not in the sun. Let concrete dry slowly and in hot, dry weather cover with plastic to slow dehydration. In humid weather allow more time, even another day, to allow the concrete to set up in mold.