



Instructions Cobblestone Molds



General Preparations

Items Needed:

- *History Stones cobblestones molds)
- *80 lb bag concrete mix (will create apx. two cobblestones)
- *mixing tub or wheelbarrow
- *mixing tool, i.e. small shovel or garden hoe
- *lubricant) or a mold release

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 or cooking vegetable oil spray (use sparingly or you will see more surface bubbles).

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.

Filling 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 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.

Unmold Cobblestones

Gently turn the mold upside down onto a soft surface, like grass or a piece of carpet for example, and pull sides away very gently from concrete and tap lightly on the back. If the mold is stiff you can soften the plastic a bit by setting it in the sunlight to warm it or use a hair blow dryer carefully just to warm the plastic and make it more flexible.

Do not walk on your stones for several days to make certain the mortar is set all the way through the stone.



Applications & Decorative Tips

Laying cobblestones - you may lay your cobblestones the same as you would for any stone or tile pathway or patio, i.e., mortar in place, or lay upon a fine gravel or sand base. Be sure that the ground is smooth and even to provide a stable base.

Patio - Use four quarter round cobblestones to create a full circle and surround them with square cobblestones to enlarge your patio

Pathway -- lay your pathway using the square cobblestones and use the quarter round cobblestones to show the corners of the path.

Decorative Tips

- *Add *concrete colorant* to the concrete mix (purchased in home improvement stores near the concrete/mortar) We used a brick like concrete colorant for the cobblestone set shown above. This will give solid color through the entire cobblestone
- * Apply a *concrete stain* to the cobblestones once they are set up for an "old world" or aged look (stains come in a variety of colors, i.e., jade, coffee, mahogany, ebony). Concrete stains are beautiful, and provide the most natural, interesting finish. You can find these stains at home improvement/paint stores

Color Design:

- * Use two or three colors to add to the design of a pathway or patio
- * Border the pathway or patio with an accenting color
- * Use an accent color for the cobblestone circles



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 holes in the bag.
- 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 will break down the mold prematurely

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.