

Making Your Own Hypertufa Garden Troughs



Stone containers were first used in England to water and feed animals. Then in the late 1800's the stone troughs became popular with garden enthusiasts as plant containers. Today, we have found a way to make them lighter in weight, with a low dollar cost.

Handcrafted hypertufa handles the outdoors and looks natural and aged from the start! Easy to create in a variety of sizes, these unique garden pots are heavy looking but surprisingly lightweight to handle!

You will Need:

- Rubber gloves
- Dust Mask & goggles or **old** glasses
- Container to mix in, such as a wheelbarrow or large tub.
- Mold: cardboard boxes, styrofoam coolers, plastic bowls, etc.
- Plastic bags—garbage or cleaner bags.
- Wooden dowels or PVC pipe 6" in length.
- Fiberglass shreds
- A piece of plywood larger than your mold.

Recipe:

- 2 parts portland cement
- 3 parts vermiculite
- 3 parts peat moss
- Water
- Mix above ingredients and a handful of fiberglass shreds to consistency of oatmeal (not runny-just lumpy and sticky).
- Start molding. (you may wish to cover your mold with plastic first to ease the un-molding.) Be sure to keep your bottom and side thickness at approx. 1 1/2".
- Make drainage holes with dowel rods, leaving rods in place.
- Cover mold with plastic so it can remain moist while setting. Cure covered for up to 5 to 7 days in shade. Uncover, un-mold and remove dowel rods; allow to dry an additional 2 to 3 days.
- Flush with water for several weeks to leach out harmful salts before planting.
- Repair cracks or damaged areas by applying a new batch of mixture to area with a trowel.

