

Vessels of concrete

Concrete is a trendy, very cheap and a common building material, which will take any form you put it in. It transforms from powder, to liquid, into solid form. It's charm and appearance is rough and imperfect and weatherproof.

With it you can make flower pots for plants, bowls, tealight candleholders or candle holders, anything really. So let's try. Our favourite is a bird watering place or watering bowl for birds, you can put in the garden. In this way you can support birds, so they can drink or take a bath, even when the weather is dry and there are no puddles. And you watch the birds from your window, when you have your breakfast.

Preparation, you will need:

- concrete and a bowl or bucket to mix it in
- empty plastic food containers bigger and small ones for molds; round and square forms; empty milk cartons, old icecream pots etc. ..., flat, long or deep containers.
- cheap vegetable oil (variation: cling film, leaves from plants)
- a brush to apply oil and small carton/saucer to put oil in. Or use hands.
- gloves, if you have sensitive skin
- Spoon or cup to fill in/pour concrete
- smaller stones; waterbottles e.g., we need them to weigh down second container. (for bigger objects: use brick)
- one bucket/container with water, where you can put used containers with concrete on. Please soak and wash them in the bucket. Do not use your sink to clean, you will block your drainage system!

The next step is:

Please set out pairs:

2 containers, which fit into each other, make one pair, one mold.

Very important is:

there has to be a gap of at least one centimeter in between, or more.

Also important :

the smaller container should be wider at the top then the bottom(roughly like a triangle or A standing on its head). If not you will not get it apart later.

Illustration 1 shows picture of what we mean.

Then **mix your concrete** with water until it has a texture of thick yoghurt.

Now you can begin pouring :

Please take one pair of containers:

- cover the inside of the outside/ bigger container with vegetable oil generously with the brush.
(Variation: instead of oil you can put clingfilm, or a plastic bag to cover)
- then cover the outside of smaller container with an oil layer
(variation: you can use leaves to cover outside, on top of oil; very pretty)
- fill bottom container half full with concrete.
- Then take smaller one and press it into concrete of bigger one.
- Level it with concrete if you want.
- Put enough stones into the smaller form, so it stays down, to weigh it down.

Please wait now until it is dry. This will take one day.

Now use a screwdriver or knife to get the two layers apart. Sometimes you have to destroy the inner vessel to get them apart.

And Bingo we have a beautiful object.

If you want, you can use sandingpaper to slightly sand down the rough edges.

Variation for the second time round:

Also a very elegant variation for flat shapes is, if the second vessel is set asymmetrically into the first one.... Very stylish.