



DYI Hypertufa Containers

This recipe will make really light pots; if you want heavier, sturdier pots simply add more cement to the mixture. You can use up to 3 parts cement for this recipe. This is a good idea for delicate items like the hands we are making today.

Tools and Materials

Rubber gloves

Dust mask

Perlite

Peat moss

Portland cement (make sure you are using cement, not mortar or other products)

Plastic tub to mix in

Disposable container to measure with. Mark a line inside it so you can measure accurately.

Water

Spray cooking oil

Mold

Plastic bags large enough for your project to fit in and tie shut.

Hypertufa Pots How-To

- Wearing rubber gloves and a dust mask to avoid breathing cement dust, mix 3 parts perlite, 3 parts peat moss, and 2 parts Portland cement in a plastic tub.
- Add water to tub, a bit at a time, until the mixture has the consistency of moist cottage cheese.
- Spray inside of mold with cooking oil. Push a handful of wet hypertufa mixture firmly against the bottom of the mold. Repeat until you have made a bottom base that is approximately 1 inch thick. Push handfuls of wet hypertufa mixture firmly against the sides of container approximately 3/4 inches in thickness. Continue until rim of mold is reached. Press bottom and sides firmly to remove air pockets.
- Create drainage hole by pushing finger or small dowel through the bottom of mold so that it penetrates the hypertufa mixture.
- Cover with plastic bag, tie shut and let dry for about 48 hours. Avoid direct sunlight.
- Take off plastic bag and remove pot from mold (pot will be slightly wet). Using a wire brush or sandpaper sponge, rough up the surface of the hypertufa for a more rustic appearance. Allow the pot to sit for 2 to 3 weeks to dry completely. Avoid direct sunlight.

Special Notes for Hypertufa Hands:

- Alter the recipe so you use 3 parts cement, 3 parts perlite and 3 parts peat moss.
- Curl floral wire around a pencil to make coils you put in the fingers of the gloves. The fingers can be fragile, the wire acts as reinforcement, like rebar in cement.
- Turn the gloves inside out to spray with cooking spray, then turn back right side to fill.
- Poke small holes in the tips of each finger to allow the hypertufa to fill correctly.
- Curl the hands around a can or plastic bottle to make a natural looking hand.