

Preparation: Dermagel and was formulated specifically for making molds from life and is non-toxic and non-invasive, making it a perfect product to use for hand castings. As with any art project, before getting started, make sure you are wearing clothes you don't mind getting messy!

You will need:

- 1 lb Dermagel
- 3 lbs white Hydrocal Gypsum Cement
- 1 Mixing Attachment
- 1 Mold Cylinder or similar sized bucket (note the material measurements were created specifically for the large mold cylinder we carry so you may need to adjust your quantities)
- 1 gal water (for molding) + 20 oz water (for casting)
- Drill
- Scissors
- Utility knife

Molding Directions:

- Pour 1 gallon (128 ounces) cold or warm water* into the cylinder.
cold water should be cold out of your tap, warm water should be 80-110 °F
**Cold water will set in 8-12 min, warm water will set in 5-7 min*
- Prep the hand you are casting by making sure it is as clean as possible. Any jewelry or rings should be removed unless you want them represented in your final casting.
- Sift the Dermagel a little at a time into the cylinder of water while mixing with the mixing attachment. Mix the material until you have a lump-free mixture (1-2 min)
- Let the Dermagel mixture sit for 2-3 minutes* to release initial air bubbles and until the mixture begins to thicken to the consistency of pancake batter. **If you are using warm water, the mixture will thicken quicker so make sure to watch the mixture closely.*
- Once ready, immediately immerse the hand to be molded into the Dermagel mixture. To help release air bubbles on the surface of the immersed hand, use your other hand to wipe the mixture up and down the arm and wiggle your fingers as well. Then, hold your immersed hand in the position you wish to mold it in and allow the mixture to set. It is imperative that this hand does not move until the mold is set, so sit as still as possible!
- When the Dermagel mixture is firm, take the index finger from your other hand and gently insert it and in between the mold and the wrist of your immersed hand and run it around the wrist to separate it from the mold.
- Slowly and gently wiggle and pull the hand from the mold, letting air inside until you feel the suction release. Make sure you do this very carefully, as to minimize damage to the mold.

Casting Directions:

- Now you are ready to cast! Grab your bag of White Hydrocal Gypsum Cement and open it.
- Pour 20 oz of cold water into the bag and seal with as little air left inside as possible.
- Mix for 2-3 min by kneading and rolling the bag until all the water is blended with all the White Hydrocal.
- Once ready, cut a lower corner off the bag while pinching it to prevent leakage of the mixture.
- Hold the bag over your Dermagel mold cylinder and squeeze 1/3 of the Hydrocal mixture into the mold.
- Tilt the mold back and forth and roll around to get the air out of the fingertips. Tap it gently while doing so.
- Pour the remainder of the White Hydrocal mixture into the mold to your preference*
**If you just want to cast the hand, pour up to the wrist ONLY. If you want to create a base for the casting, pour the remainder of the White Hydrocal mixture into the cylinder.*

Setting and Removal Directions:

- The White Hydrocal needs to remain in the mold for 1.5 - 2 hours to fully set.
- Once ready, gently flip the cylinder upside down. To aid in getting the mold and casting out of the cylinder, we suggest cutting an “X” in the bottom center of the cylinder with a utility knife. This will allow air to flow into the cylinder and release suction. (To reuse the cylinder, simply place some masking tape over this “X” on the inside of the cylinder before using.)
- Once you’ve removed your mold and casting from the cylinder, use the utility knife to carefully cut the alginate from the casting. Be careful not to scar the casting with the utility knife. The best rule of thumb is to keep your cuts shallow.
- Pull the Dermagel from your casting and voila! You should have a real-life casting of your hand. You can use a toothpick or something similar to remove any Dermagel “boogers” from your casting.
- Allow the casting to dry thoroughly before attempting to paint or decorate. This usually takes a few days at room temperature but can be accelerated with a microwave* or mild heat and air circulation. If you have any bubbles in the casting, now is the time to file or fill them.