

Bird Bath Bowl Instructions

Pedestal Instructions Are on Page 2



General preparations

Additional Items Needed:

- *ready mix concrete mix (30 lbs for olive branch bowl or 40 pounds for large bowl)
- *mixing tub or wheelbarrow
- *mixing tool, i.e. small shovel or garden hoe
- *Lubricant or a mold

- **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, cooking spray or petroleum jelly (use sparingly).
- **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.

Casting Bird Bath Bowl 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/mortar 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.

Using Your Concrete Bird Bath Bowl

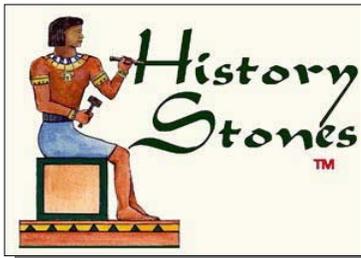
- Use with History Stones elegant baluster pedestal (pictured at right with large bird bath bowl)
- Use your own pedestal
- Use thin set mortar to attach bowl to pedestal

Optional decorative techniques:

- You may add concrete colorant directly to your wet concrete mix for solid color (sold at hardware & home improvement stores next to concrete)
- You may stain your finished concrete piece
- The olive branch detail looks beautiful when painted with concrete paints
- The large bird bath bowl is well suited for adding mosaic pieces. There are many books and online sources on how to create with mosaics.
- Always seal your finished concrete bird bath with concrete sealant which will protect your bird bath and help it's finish last
- To clean your finished bird bath it is easiest to spray with the hose each time you water your garden to keep it fresh



Enjoy the process and make some to share!



Casting The History Stones Baluster/Pedestal Molds

Included in History Baluster Kit:

Two piece baluster molds, 16 bolts 16 nuts, Instruction Sheet



General preparations

Additional Items Needed:

- 53 lbs Ready Mix Concrete or Portland cement and sand mix (*described at right*)
- 29" steel rebar (if creating balusters for railing)
- Mixing tool, (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 will extend the life of the mold itself. We recommend the use of any concrete release agent, cooking oil spray or WD40 lubricant (use sparingly).
- **The Mix is two parts sand and one part cement** or pre mixed concrete
- Mix a small amount of water at a time until you achieve a consistency that is well mixed, and is thick, not runny.
- **Weight**— baluster only 53 lbs.

Casting Baluster

- Use hardware provided to bolt two halves of mold together, do not over tighten.
- Place the mold assembly upright and **begin filling** the molds 4" at a time.
- **Shake, bounce and tap the sides** of your mold in between pouring to spread the concrete and to help drive out air bubbles. You may use a 2" x 2" piece of lumber to pack the mix in (do not use a sharp tool that can scratch your mold — which will show on finished castings)
- **Do not use pencil vibrator inside the mold. It will destroy the mold.**
- **Let molds set up** in a dry place out of direct sun for 24 to 48 hours



Removing Casting

- Once concrete is set, remove the bolts, carefully tilt the baluster flat to the ground taking care not to rest heavy casting on edges of mold (best to remove on grass area, carpet, cardboard for softer surface).
- Now un mold the castings by pulling and lifting on the ends of the mold.
- The concrete will continue to set up for 5 more days so be gentle with handling until it is fully cured.
- Clean the mold immediately after use and store molds out of the sun.
- It is normal to have some air bubbles in the surface of your baluster which you can patch easily by mixing a small batch of one part cement and one part sand and enough water to moisten. Apply with a damp sponge to smooth over the area.

Using the Baluster

- Especially designed to be used with the History Stones Concrete Railing System which includes rails and newel posts.
- **You may use the baluster as a *bird bath pedestal* or as a *pedestal for concrete balls, finials or other art.***
- The baluster is a good choice for a table base.
- Use your imagination and be sure you use thin set mortar to attach other concrete pieces to your baluster for a stable and safe project (concrete is heavy) Have Fun!

Important—Please Read

Artistic Home & Garden Co. will not be held responsible for any installation. All installations are the responsibility of the installer.