

Kids Explore!



Make Garden Stepping Stones

Decorate with natural and recycled treasures!

Materials

- ◆ A large plastic bucket with straight sides, such as a paint mixing bucket
- ◆ A permanent marker
- ◆ Decorating materials: shells, stones, marbles, broken pottery, tiles, etc.
- ◆ A hacksaw
- ◆ Petroleum jelly
- ◆ Bag of ready-mix, sand mix concrete and something to mix it in
- ◆ Garden trowel, piece of heavy cardboard, rubber gloves
- ◆ Hose with spray nozzle
- ◆ 3 x 5 piece of scrap wood
- ◆ Large piece of plastic, such as an old shower curtain

*Activities with a * require adult help.*

* 1. To make three molds from a large bucket: Use a hacksaw to cut off the bucket bottom. Use a marker

to divide the rest of the bucket into three equal parts. Use the hacksaw to cut them.

2. Place the molds on your wood and coat insides with petroleum jelly.

* 3. Follow directions on bag for making concrete. Test mix by making a v-shaped cut in a small mound with a trowel — walls will crumble if too dry, or will melt back into mound if too wet.

4. Fill molds 1.5-2 inches thick. Pat and smooth with gloved hands and piece of heavy cardboard.

5. Decorate by pressing natural and recycled objects into concrete so they are partially buried.

6. Drape plastic over molds. Remove stones from molds after 2-3 hours by lifting up rings. Lightly spray stones with water. Cover with plastic again. Use molds turned sideways to hold plastic off stones. It will take 5-7 days for stones to cure and completely dry. If weather is dry, spray with water a few times a day so stones don't dry too fast.

