

- 1 part portland cement (not concrete or a mix)
- 2 parts Vermiculite (or sand or perlite)
- 2 parts peat moss (strained to remove sticks and large pieces)

Mix the dry ingredients thoroughly; then begin adding water a little at a time. (Always use heavy rubber gloves when working with this mixture and portland cement as the cement can be very abrasive to your skin.) Use enough water to make the mixture wet but not dripping. When you squeeze it a few drops of water will run out.

Line your mold with bubble wrap or plastic; begin filling the mold beginning with the bottom and press into place. Then press mixture onto the sides of your mold; all surfaces should be approximately 1–1.5 inches thick. A drainage hold should be made into pots which will be used for plantings.

Place the filled mold into a plastic bag and tie or secure tightly. Place the product into a garage, basement, etc to cure; do not cure in bright light or in the sun.

After 1-5 days, remove the bag if you scratch the surface of your new container with a nail or sharp object and no indentation is made. If cured, carefully remove the container from the mold, remove the bubble wrap or plastic and brush your new pot with a wire brush.

Put your new pot back into the plastic bag. Store in a shady spot for two to five weeks.

Before using, rinse very well (several rains will help rinse it well or you can use a garden hose to rinse it).

Plant and water thoroughly. The pot will absorb some water too; when the pot is wet it will be heavy but as it dries will become very light and easy to move if it is a large pot. You can encourage moss to grow on the outside of the pot if you wish by brushing the exterior of the pot with buttermilk and attaching moss.

**Other supplies needed:** Rubber gloves, face mask, large container to mix in (wheel barrow, or large tub, etc.), strainer (for the peat moss), dishpan or other pot to mold into, plastic or bubble wrap to line the mold, plastic trash bag large enough to contain your mold while it is curing.

**Optional:** Wire mesh (chicken wire, hardware cloth, fiberglass fibers) used to reinforce your container if it is very large.

The internet has numerous sites with variations of the above recipe and some wonderful project ideas. The local libraries also have books. I have a number of reference books with ideas for pots, birdbaths, etc. if you'd like to peruse my resources.

You are now a pro; enjoy your pot and your future projects in hypertufa!