

STONE FACE INSTRUCTIONS

Everything you need to make one Stone Face is in this kit. To make a stone-faced planter, add your own 6" clay pot (if you're a gardener, you've probably got one lying around the house). The process is easy, but be sure to read through these instructions thoroughly before beginning.

Contents:

- One reusable Stone Face mold
- Lightweight concrete mix
- Concrete tint

Special Note: Children should not use this kit without adult supervision. Do not breathe concrete dust and make sure to wash concrete off of your skin promptly.

Directions for Making Your First Stone Face

Gather these things before you start:

- All items from this kit
- Plastic sheeting to protect your work area (a garbage bag works well)
- Mixing bucket and trowel (optional)
- Measuring cup
- Water for mixing and clean up

1) To mix the concrete, it's easiest to use a bucket and trowel, but you can also mix it right in the bag by securing the top of the bag with a twist tie and squishing the mixture around. Add approximately 1.5 cups of water and mix it into the concrete. The concrete should be thick and clumpy. If your concrete is powdery, add more water about a quarter-cup at a time until you get a well-mixed, very thick consistency. If you accidentally add too much water and your concrete becomes soupy (soupy concrete will dry weak and crumbly), you can add sand or dry dirt to thicken it up.



2) If you desire, add some tint at this point, mixing in a little at a time until you get the color you want.

3) Scoop the concrete into the mold making sure to squish it into the recesses like the nose and chin.



It's important to now jiggle and shake the mold for 2-3 minutes in all directions to get as many bubbles out as possible. If you look at the mold from below and see any bubbles, keep shaking. Shake, shake, shake!



4) If you're making a Stone Face planter, press a standard 6" (or slightly larger or smaller) clay pot into the mold, making sure that the bottom of the pot is against the bottom (the chin) of the Stone Face mold. It's best to use a clay pot; concrete will not adhere well to a smooth plastic pot.



With the back of your fingers, push a little concrete from the forehead area over the rim and down into the pot; this will help "hook" the face onto the pot.



5) Place the mold where it will be undisturbed for a couple of days in a controlled environment between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit, preferably not in direct sunlight.

6) After 48 hours, your Stone Face will have cured enough to remove it from the mold. Start by pulling at the sides of the mold; if you turn the mold upside down while doing this, you will be able to see it releasing through the transparent plastic. Gently but firmly wiggle and cajole until the face releases.



Your Stone Face may come out shiny, but will turn matte in a matter of days, especially if it's kept outside.

7) Chip away material from the top of the forehead to give your face its desired hairline.

8) Now for the really fun part... add your foliage! What plants work best? If your Stone Face planter is going to live outside, drought-tolerant plants like sedum work best. You can also load the pot with dried flowers or grasses for a nice effect. If your Stone Face is going to stay inside, try aloes, vines, ferns or any other indoor plants you like. Experimentation is fun!

9) If your Stone Face breaks, it can be glued back together and will still look good. White glue and wood glue will work, but concrete cement is ideal.

10) To make more Stone Faces, buy more concrete (concrete patcher, mortar or sand mix work best; just make sure you get a mix that doesn't have rocks or gravel in it) and tint at your local hardware or home improvement store. Give them as gifts! Sell them at a yard sale! Populate your garden with Stone Faces!

EXTRA CREDIT PROJECTS

STONE FACE BOOKEND

To make a Stone Face Bookend, follow steps one through three above; then push a wooden slat with a nail through it into the wet concrete at the bottom of the head. Paint stirrers cut in half and tongue depressors both work well for this purpose.

The nail will anchor the slat to the face. You might want to glue felt to the bottom of your finished product to protect your shelves from scratching.



STONE FACE WALL HANGING

To make a Stone Face Wall Hanging, follow steps one through three above, then



bend a paper clip as shown and push it into the wet concrete.



Once the concrete has cured, you can bend the paper clip up to create a perfect hanger for your Stone Face. Alternatively, you could also embed a picture hanger into the wet concrete.



HAPPY ACCIDENT

If you drop a pot and break it, don't despair! Your stone face will look great under a bush. Just break away the extraneous pot pieces and place it at the base of something leafy.



GETTING CREATIVE

Try painting a Stone Face with acrylic paints for a great gaudy, mannequin-like effect.

You can use your Stone Face mold with substances other than concrete. Try making an ice face in your freezer, or a sand face at the beach, or a jello face in your fridge (do not use a Stone Face mold for food items after it has been used with concrete)... the possibilities are endless!

Be sure to e-mail us photos of your creations (images@magneticpoetry.com) and we'll put them on our website (www.magneticpoetry.com)!

You can order more Stone Face Kits, other Poetry Stone Kits and Poetry Stones accessories by visiting our website at

www.poetrystones.com

Or call us at
800-370-7697 or 612-638-1040.