

Make Your Own Marker Stones

With this kit you can create your own perfectly sized concrete marker stones. Use your stones to label vegetable rows, create garden poems, home address markers or a memorable keepsake gift for a parent or grandparent. The possibilities are endless and the process is easy, but **be sure to read through these instructions thoroughly before beginning.**

Contents:

- Four concrete forms of varying length
- One form for making stands
- Forty-two press-in letters, numbers and punctuation marks
- Two lbs. lightweight concrete mix
- Buff colored concrete tint
- Plastic trowel

Special Note: Children should not use this kit without adult supervision. Do not use this kit in temperatures below 40 degrees fahrenheit.

Directions For Making Your First Marker Stone

Note: The concrete included in this kit is intended as a starter bag and will help you get a feel for how the kit works on a larger scale. To make more stones, you will need to go to a hardware store or home improvement store to purchase additional concrete mix. See the directions for making additional stones on the other side of this instruction sheet.

Gather these things before you start:

- All the items from this kit
- Plastic sheet for covering your work area (a large garbage bag works well)
- Mixing bucket
- Water for mixing and cleaning up
- Measuring cup
- Vinyl or latex gloves (optional)

1. Pick a good place to work where you can let your stone(s) dry undisturbed for a couple of days. Place the plastic sheet over your work area.



2. The 2 pounds of lightweight concrete mix included in this kit will make one stone using the 14.5" form or several smaller stones. Decide what word(s) you want to make and lay out the letters for the word(s) to decide what length form(s) you should use.

3. Carefully empty the bag of lightweight concrete mix into

your bucket and add approximately 1.5 cups of water. Use the trowel to mix the concrete and water, adding tint as you mix until you achieve your desired color. To get the concrete to the right consistency you may need to add more water, but only add a teaspoon at a time. Mix the concrete and tint until it easily slides or "slumps" off the trowel. Try for a consistency that is thick enough that it does not stick to the sides of the bucket, yet is soft enough to push the letters into (somewhere between the consistency of soft-serve and scoop ice cream). Remember to err on the dryer side of thickness, you can always thin the concrete with a little more water.



4. Fill your form(s) with the concrete, squishing it down and leveling it out with the trowel. Jiggle the form a little to help the concrete settle. Clean and wet the trowel with fresh water and drag it across the top of the form to create a smooth surface.



5. To use the press-in letters, align all of the letters for a word gently on top of the concrete. Once they are arranged the way you want, push them in one at a time then carefully remove them. If a letter is used more than once in your word, place it in its first position and then move it to where it occurs again in the word. This will help you get the spacing right. Be sure to give each letter a quick rinse when you're done to remove any concrete.



6. Once you have made your word, carefully remove the form by lifting it slowly, straight up.



7. If the form you chose is too long for your word, you can slice off any extra concrete with your trowel.

8. To "bend" your stone like the "periwinkle" stone shown on the box, place your hands at the bottom edge of your stone and slowly push it into the shape you want. This technique works best for longer stones.



9. To finish your stone you may want to use your fingertips

to smooth the rough edges around the top.

10. Your stone is now ready to dry, which is called “ curing.” Let your stone cure for at least 48 hours before handling it. If you are making your stones in the hot sun, lay another sheet of plastic over it to keep it moist as long as possible. Concrete needs moisture to cure.

11. Be sure to clean all your letters, the forms and the trowel thoroughly. Don't forget to wash your hands with soap and water. Concrete left too long on skin can irritate it.

Using the stand form

Your kit comes with a form to make stands for your marker stones if you wish to prop them up off the ground. You will need two stands to prop up one stone. Use the form in the same way you would use the marker stones forms, paying special attention to get the concrete into the corners of the form and lifting off the form carefully.



Making More Stones

The forms and press-in letters in your kit are reusable. You can make as many marker stones as you want. If you are feeling really ambitious, or have a group of friends or family helping, you can buy a couple of 40 lb. bags of concrete, some extra tint, and turn out dozens of stones in an afternoon!

Here's what you'll need to make more Marker Stones:

- The forms, press-in letters and trowel from this kit
- Plastic sheeting to protect your work area (a large garbage bag works well)
- Concrete mix
- Concrete tint
- 5 gallon bucket or wheelbarrow
- Small shovel
- Water for mixing and clean up
- Vinyl or latex gloves (optional)

A note on buying the right concrete mix and tint: Most hardware stores and home improvement centers sell several types of concrete mix for varying uses. For this kit we recommend a fine aggregate concrete mix, or a concrete that is labeled “vinyl patch mix.” This type of concrete is easy to mix and very durable, but most importantly it should contain a fine sand aggregate with no gravel. Concrete containing gravel is too coarse to effectively print words into. For more information about concrete, visit our website at [\[rystones.com\]\(http://www.poetrystones.com\). A 40 lb. bag of concrete mix will make anywhere from 15 to 20 stones depending on the size of the form. Most hardware stores also carry concrete tint. It is available in many colors, in powdered or liquid form. Most people use about 4 tablespoons of tint per 3 lbs. of concrete, but again it's up to you to determine the intensity of color you like. You can also order more of the lightweight concrete included in this kit directly from us as well as more tint, additional letter sets, and decorative elements. See the information below.](http://www.poet-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

After setting up your workspace and gathering your supplies, prepare the concrete and tint according to the package instructions. You can use your trowel or a small shovel for mixing.

Mix the concrete until it easily slides or “slumps” off the shovel or trowel.

Fill the form and follow the instructions starting from step #4 on the other side.

Have fun and be creative!

Additional Stone Accessories you can order directly from Magnetic Poetry:

Lightweight concrete mix - 4 lbs.

Buff concrete tint - 3 oz.

Terra cotta concrete tint - 3 oz.

Set of uppercase Traditional Press-In Letters

Set of lowercase Traditional Press-In Letters

Set of uppercase Classic Press-In Letters

Adjustable form - makes square stones from 4-15"

100 glass jewels - red, turquoise, blue, dark green

120 mosaic tiles - red, yellow, blue, green, white

Visit our website at
www.poetrystones.com for price
and ordering information
or call us at
800-370-7697 or 612-638-1040.