

MADE-BY-HAND AT 1450 OCEAN: DESKTOP CEMENT PLANTER

Cement planters are a fun and modern decorative element to add to your office or home. Although the material is slightly porous, using drought-tolerant plants can help avoid water stains and spills

You will need:

- Quick-set cement or concrete (pictured: Rapid Set Cement All)
- Water to mix with cement and a spray bottle of water to keep the setting project wet.
- Measuring cups to obtain correct water to concrete mix ratio: Cement All ratio is 4-1, Quikrete about 7-1)
- Plastic tub and large spoon—only for mixing and at least a third larger than the exterior mold
- Exterior mold (flexible: yogurt tub, styro soup bowl, plastic food saver, bottom third of a milk carton, etc.)
- Interior form (flexible, straight-sided or expanding: paper cup, shampoo bottle—a smaller item to fit inside the exterior mold to create a cavity)
- Stir sticks, rubber bands, string (to hold interior/exterior molds together if needed)
- Gloves, dust mask and eye protection
- Cactus or succulent and planting medium
- Optional decoration and surface protection: paints/spray paint, gilding, felt

STEP 1 Start with clean molds. Check the fit of the interior and exterior molds—the interior mold may need weighting or other support with sticks/rubber bands/string. Molds and forms may be single-use only, or (optional) treated with cooking oil spray as a mold release. Don't let the interior form get closer than 3/4-inch from the exterior mold's bottom.

STEP 2 Measure concrete or cement and water according to directions. Concrete and cement release silica dust when agitated, so wear a dust mask or respirator when measuring and combining with water. Gloves keep your hands from drying out. Wetted concrete and cement mixes also chemically react and heat up while curing; to avoid burns, don't immerse your hand into the wet mixture or let large amounts rest on your skin—some people may be more sensitive than others.

STEP 3 Stir vigorously to eliminate lumps and uneven wetting. Experiment with your mix—with cement, the best consistency seems to be between smooth peanut butter and pancake batter, while the concrete mix may be closer to porridge. As this isn't structural, there is a range of acceptable outcomes.



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STEP 4 Pour the mixture into your exterior mold and arrange your interior form. While it sets, mist with water, keeping the top surface damp for at least 30 minutes.

STEP 5 Cleanup: Let the mixing bowl, spoon and any surface with wet concrete dry, then knock the dry flakes into the trash. DON'T send them down the drain!

STEP 6 When dry, unmold, decorate as desired, add felt to the bottom and plant your cactus or succulent.

1450 Ocean offers arts, crafts and culture classes for all adults, year-round. Polish your writing, take a better picture, learn how to make paper, knit, sew, and find a community of artists and more! Drop by—parking is a breeze in Structure 6, just around the corner, just \$1 for 2.5 hours.

Visit us at smgov.net/1450ocean or 1450 Ocean Ave at Broadway. Contact communityclasses@smgov.net or 310.458.2239. View and register for classes at facebook.com/1450ocean/events (click on the "tickets" link for individual workshops) or search by keyword at smgov.net/reserve.

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DOGS ON PARKS



HOWLIN' JAY HAMPTON, 1-1/2

"I'm a terrier mix, and there's nothin' I like more than chewin' on a palm in my backyard—**Palisades Park!**"



LAMMIE AND GORDON, BOTH 8

"We may look like twins but Lammie is a Bichon Frise mix and Gordon's a Cocker Spaniel poodle. We really enjoy meeting new people, hanging out while Mom reads her new books from the amazing Pico Branch Library, and then sunning ourselves in beautiful **Virginia Avenue Park.**"



DAISY, 4-1/2

"I was lucky enough to be adopted from the Santa Monica Animal Shelter almost 2 years ago. My mom thinks I'm a shepherd/husky mix. My favorite thing is relaxing with my buds at **Airport Park's** off-leash dog park—in fact, I lie around like this pretty much every morning, and get lots of awwwws from the other (2-legged) visitors."

Where does your pooch like to play? Send us a high-quality photo with your dog's name, age, breed and favorite activity at one of Santa Monica's parks for a future edition of *Seascope*. Email information and pictures to seascope@smgov.net.