

Diy Hypertufa Pot

Rubber gloves • Dust mask • Perlite • Peat moss • Portland cement • Plastic tub • Water • Spray cooking oil • Mold/Form
Optional: Cement pigment • Vermiculite • Acrylic fibers • Small wooden dowel or stick • Paint to seal interior

1 Mix three parts peat moss, three parts Perlite, and two parts Portland cement in a wheelbarrow, bucket, or other large container. Vermiculite can be used in place of perlite for a more workable hypertufa. Perlite resists water where vermiculite will absorb it. The vermiculite concrete will be harder than perlite concrete. If making a large pot (2' x 3'), add acrylic fibers for strength.

- Measurements may be approximate.
- Try to get all the lumps out of the peat moss for best texture.
- Wear gloves.
- Wear a mask to avoid breathing the mixture.
- Use a shovel or trowel to stir.

2 Gradually add water and stir the mixture, until you achieve a stiff, workable “mud pie” consistency. You should be able to form a ball of the mixture in your hand.

3 Spray cooking oil into the form and then place some of the mixture into it. You can use a plastic pot or other form.

- Whatever you use as the form should be much larger than the opening you want in the finished plant pot, because the walls will be quite thick.
- Make sure the shape of the pot or form you use will allow you to remove the finished planter easily. It should have sloped sides with no undercuts.
- Press the mixture against the sides of the form, leaving a thick wall with an opening for a plant.
- Make the walls 1-2 inches (2.5 to 5cm) thick. You will be able to see the shape of the finished plant pot as you complete it.

4 Add a hole in the bottom for drainage. Use your finger or a stick to form the hole.

5 Allow the planter to cure thoroughly for about 7 days. You may occasionally spray with water for two weeks. To reach full strength for curing, the concrete will need 28 days total however the initial 7 days will provide an 75-80% strength.

6 Carefully de-mold the planter and add soil and plants or other stuff! Place a tray underneath the pot to collect drained water and protect the surface it is sitting on. As an additional option, seal the interior of the pot with paint to keep the soil from drying out as quickly.

