



Instructons Using The Bench Molds

Included in History Stones Bench Kit:
One Seat Mold, One Leg Mold



General preparations

Additional Items Needed:

- *concrete mix 80 lb bag makes one seat and one leg
- *mixing tub or wheelbarrow
- *mixing tool, i.e., small shovel or garden hoe
- *Lubricant or a mold release

- Prepare the molds using a lubricant or a mold release. This will help in removing the casting from the mold later and may extend the life of the mold itself. We recommend the use of any concrete release agent, cooking spray or petroleum jelly (use sparingly to avoid too many surface air bubbles in concrete).
- Mix the concrete according to the instructions from the concrete manufacturer, mixing a small amount of water at a time until you achieve a consistency that is well mixed, and is thick, not runny; similar to the consistency of crunchy peanut butter.

Casting The seat

- Place the seat mold on flat cardboard or another nonabrasive surface.
- Fill the mold in quarters, bouncing and taping in between to spread the concrete inside the mold and to drive out all the air bubbles,
- Place the mold in a dry place out of direct sun for at least 24 hours or longer if the conditions are humid.
- Once concrete is set, remove the casting by turning the mold upside down on a soft surface, pull and lift on the end of the mold and the casting will slip out. If you have any difficulty removing your casting, place the mold with the plastic facing the sun for one hour. This sun will warm up the plastic and it will be easier to remove your items, (or use a blow dryer to warm the plastic a bit).
- The concrete will continue to set up for 5 more days so be gentle with handling until it is fully cured.
- Clean the mold immediately after use and store the molds out of the sun.
- It is not necessary to reinforce the concrete due to the short span of the top, though if you prefer to reinforce it you may use steel mesh, coat hangers, rebar. Place the steel 1/2" into the concrete in the casting position.

Casting The Leg

- The leg is designed with a top and bottom. The top is 1 1/2" smaller than the bottom which will require a wood spacer or a stack of magazines to keep the mold level.
- Follow the same instructions above regarding casting.

Note: To correct any bulging on the mold (which will make it very difficult to unmold), press in on the top and the bottom sides of the mold before concrete begins to set up. Building a tight fitting wooden frame to surround the mold securely is best for preventing bulging.

Application

- Place the legs in the desired location. Place the two legs 14 " to 16" apart.
- You have the choice of placing the top of the bench on the legs with or without mortaring them to the bench top.
- Mortaring the top is recommended if you do not plan on moving the bench often.
- You may use the column molds to cast two pedestal style legs to create a taller side table or counter next to the barbeque .
- Painting the decorative carving on the ends can add style.

