



Column & Bird Bath Instructions

Included in History Stones Column /Bird Bath Kit:
One Base Mold, One Column Tube, & crown mold or bird bath bowl
(depending on your order)



General preparations

Additional Items Needed:

- *concrete mix 80 lb bag makes one column section, base and crown
- *mixing tub or wheelbarrow
- *mixing tool, i.e. small shovel or garden hoe
- * 2" wide Blue painter tape
- *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).
- 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 With the Base & Crown Molds/Bird Bath Bowl Molds

- Place the base and crown/bird bath molds on flat cardboard or another nonabrasive surface.
- Fill the molds in quarters, bouncing and tapping in between to spread the concrete inside the mold and to drive out all the air bubbles,
- Place the molds 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 castings by turning the molds 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).
- **For Bird Bath Only:** create a riser piece to place between bird bath bowl and pedestal by pouring concrete several inches into the round bottom part of the base mold, and allow to set up 24 hours before removing. This will fit your column and bowl nicely, creating an elegant silhouette
- The **concrete will continue to set up for 5 more days so be gentle** with handling until it is fully cured.

Casting the Column Body

The column body is designed to allow the user to create a column to any desired height by stacking multiple segments and mortaring in between each segment. The column segments can be smooth by using only the column tube or decorative by using the decorative inserts (accessories sold separately).

- Roll The Plastic tube segment to fit inside the 6" center part of the base mold. Use strong tape, i.e., **packaging tape**, (do not use duck tape) to tape the column tube's open seam from top to bottom and wrap tape again around the top and the bottom circumference of the molds. *This appears to be a flimsy and strange thing to use for a mold — BUT wait until you try it and you will see how easily it works! The best part is that it is so easy to unmold and leaves only a small, barely noticeable seam.*
- Place the tube on top of a flat cardboard surface.
- Hold down on the tube and start filling it with concrete in quarter segments stopping each time to tap on the side of the mold using a wood stick (while keeping a firm hold onto the mold to avoid tipping), to vibrate the concrete into place and drive out the air bubbles. Some of the water may seep from the bottom.
- After 48 hours cut the tape with a knife, pull the plastic away from the casting smooth the seam line with a wet sponge. Clean the mold for future use.



Decorative inserts

- Fold and place insert in the tube.
- Position insert seam **opposite** to tube seam.