

This kit contains:

- Six wooden mixing paddles
- Six craft sticks for writing
- Six stepping stone molds
- Six bags Stepping Stone Mix
- Easy to follow instructions
- One pound of mosaic stained glass pieces
- One strip of paint gems
- Six paint brushes
- Three 4-pattern design sheets

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, GATHER YOUR MATERIALS

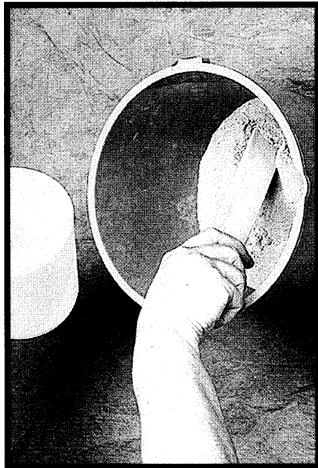
- In addition to this kit, you'll need:
- A workspace where your finished stone can remain undisturbed for a day OR a board to support the finished stone so it can be moved without bending it
- Newspaper to protect your work surface
- Water for mixing and cleanup
- A bucket
- Scissors
- A measuring cup
- A putty knife, spatula, pancake turner or other smooth-edged tool for smoothing the stone mixture

Safety first

- This kit is designed as a parent/child activity.
- **Parental supervision is required.**
- Be very careful not to breathe the dust. Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes, and if you have sensitive skin, protect your hands with plastic gloves.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling the Stepping Stone Mix.
- Do not ingest.

EASY STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

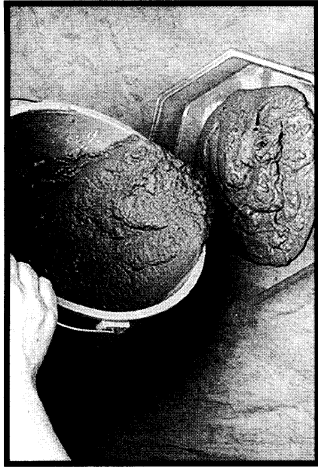
Note: If you want to make one of the four design patterns included in the kit, prepare it now. Cut out the shape so it is ready to use later. You can photocopy or trace any of the designs on the sheet to make more.



1. MIX

Cut the top off one bag, hold it closed, turn it upside down and place it in a bucket. Pull the bag up off the pile of mix. Be careful not to breathe the dust. It's a good idea to wear a dust mask.

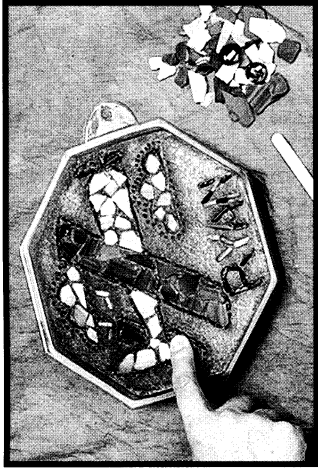
Start by stirring in a little less than 1 cup of water. If you need to, add more water one tablespoon at a time just until the mixture is easy to stir and looks like thick pudding – see the "POUR" photo for the right consistency. Don't add too much! Less water is better. Scrape the bottom of the bucket to make sure you stir in all the dry powder. When all the dry powder is mixed in, the mixture is ready to pour into the mold.



2. POUR AND SMOOTH

Put the mold on the work surface (or on a board, so later you can move your finished project without bending it). Empty the mixture into the mold all at once, and use any smooth-edged tool to smooth the surface. A putty knife works great. Hold two corners of the mold and gently jiggle the mold back and forth until the surface levels out.

This is a good time to clean up your container and tools. Just give them a rinse outside with the garden hose. Never put Stepping Stone Mix down the sink – it can clog your drains.



3. DECORATE

Make a mosaic If you chose a pattern from the sheet, lay it on the surface of the mixture now. Lightly trace around the shape with a pencil. Remove the paper shape.

Fill in the design with glass and gems. Fit the pieces together like a puzzle, leaving a little space between them. Remember to push each piece of glass gently into the mix, just until the edges are covered. If you press a piece in too far you can jiggle the mold a little to level the surface again.

You can cover your whole stone with glass, or you can write your name in the mixture. Use your craft stick with an up and down sawing motion. It's okay if the glass pieces get messy or some watery mixture creeps over the edges of the pieces; you can clean it off the next day with an old toothbrush.

Paint the stone

The next day after the stone mixture is hard, you can add paint to your creation. There are lots of colors in the paint pots, and you can mix any of them together to make new colors, too. Just paint designs on the stone and wait for the paint to dry.

You can also make a wash with your favorite color – equal parts paint and water – and paint it all over the surface of the stone. It will run into your writing and make it darker. Then take a dry paper towel and wipe most of the paint off the surface. You will get a great antique effect!

FINISHING YOUR STONE

Keep the stone in a cool place out of direct sunlight while it cures. It doesn't dry; it's the combination of powder and water that makes it harden. The next day use an old toothbrush and water to clean up the surface of the glass. Leave the stone in the mold, and keep the mold flat on a table. You can also use a green kitchen scrubber, but be gentle – the stone is still breakable, and hard scrubbing can dislodge the glass.

Wait a full 24 hours before you take the stone out of the mold, so it won't crack. Turn the mold upside down over a towel, and use gentle pressure all around the bottom edge to push the stone out. Use a screwdriver or other metal tool to scrape off any sharp edges. Then you can wash it with dish soap and water to make the glass shine.



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