

CEMENT STEPPING STONE



Materials & Tools:

- Eye protection
- Dust mask
- Gloves
- Plastic tarp
- Large board (optional)
- Pizza box
- Duct tape
- Chicken wire (optional)
- Scissors
- Plastic garbage bag
- Quick-setting cement
- Water
- 5-gallon bucket
- Trowel
- Embellishments (Rocks from a local stream or lake)



This activity requires eating one large pizza before getting started!



Prep Work

Set up shop in a well-ventilated area. Protect floor with a tarp or an old sheet. Lay out a board that's larger than the pizza box for your work surface. Cut the top of the pizza box off and wrap the sides with duct tape for added support.

EASY STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix

First put on your dust mask. Next pour a quarter of a 50-pound bag of quick-setting cement mix into a 5-gallon bucket. Be careful not to breathe the dust.

Next pour in 2 cups of water and mix with a garden trowel until the mixture is easy to stir and looks like cookie batter.



2. Pour

Place the pizza box on the board and fill the pizza box half full with your mix and spread it to the edges. Gently jiggle the box back and forth to help remove any air bubbles and level the surface.

Place the hardware cloth onto the cement and press it into the mix. Then mix another batch of cement (exactly as in step 1) to pour on top of the hardware mesh. Then spread evenly and jiggle out the air bubbles again.

3. Decorate

Remove your dust mask and eye protection. If you want to make a hand and foot print do that next. Wash your hands and feet right after doing so with soap and water.

Next make a design with rocks and gems you've gathered from your outdoor adventures. Push each one over halfway into the mix, so it will stay.

Finally use your craft stick to write your name and age into the mixture.

4. Finishing Your Stone

Let the stepping stone sit for at least 24 hours to let it cure.

Then carefully turn the stone over and remove the box from the bottom of the stepping stone. Peel off the garbage bag liner, and it's finished!

Let the stepping stone cure outside of the box for another 24 hours before walking on it.