Cement How-to

Think of this user-friendly material as Play-Doh for grown-ups—except you’re supposed to leave it out overnight to dry.

**STEP 1**

**STIR IT UP**

Following the package directions, combine pigment powder, cement mix, and water in a large plastic container. Add more water, a spoonful at a time, stirring until cement mix dissolves and mixture has the consistency of Greek yogurt.

**STEP 2**

**GIVE IT SHAPE**

Pour cement into mold. For a paperweight, use a round ice mold. For a ring holder, roll heavy paper or contact paper into a cone and tape it shut (set it inside a cup for balance). For a bud vase, cut the top off a large water bottle and fill it partway, then insert an object to create a hollow (we used a cardboard tube sealed with tape), and add more mix. Let dry overnight.

**STEP 3**

**SET IT FREE**

Remove mold. Cardboard or paper will peel off; cut plastic with a utility knife, then pull it away.

**THE DETAILS:**
- Quikrete Countertop Mix, in White, $12 for 80 lb., homedepot.com.
- Colorant cement and grout pigment, in Rose, $6 for 3 oz., amazon.com.