



# SPRINGVALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

*The Heart of the Village*

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## Hypertufa Succulent Pots

### In your kit:

- 1 bag of Perlite
- 1 bag of Peat Moss
- 1 bag of Portland Cement
- 1 pair of gloves

### What you'll need:

- 1 cup of water
- Paper bag or table covering to work on
- Bowl
- Paper towel
- Mask



I first saw hypertufa on a Martha Stewart episode in 2011 and I'm very excited to share this craft with you. Hypertufa is a very interesting mix of Perlite, peat moss, and Portland cement. It can last up to 20 years outdoors. It's very light and has the flexibility of decorating by sanding, adding concrete colouring, and even bubble wrap. Hyper means very, and tufa is the name of the porous rock typical in areas of Italy where Etruscan towns were built on. Consider this a gateway craft. Use the same recipe to make other containers using milk cartons, tall plastic cups to look like tapering pillars. The opportunities are endless. Perlite and peat moss are affordable at your local hardware store. Portland cement comes in 90 pound bags and I'd love to get rid of the extra 80 pounds we have left. If you'd like to make more pots, bring a gallon Ziploc bag and we'd be happy to let you stock up with cement for your next hypertufa adventure.

Further resources: Google "Martha Stewart Hypertufa" and "Lowe's Hypertufa". Both resources are invaluable and very instructive. I used the Lowe's recipe of 1:1:1:1. Martha's ratio is different.

*A huge thank you to Sam's daughter, Victoria, for growing and donating all the succulents that you will receive with your kit!*

**Care and keeping of succulents:** Succulents love light, need to be watered so that the soil dries out in the top layer. Water when the soil is dry. Overwatering can kill them so please don't drench them in a puddle. There is no drainage hole in these containers but the materials are porous enough that they will absorb water and release it gradually. Still, don't over water. :D

Here we go!

Prepare your work surface to be able to clean up easily. No one wants cement on the kitchen table. Wear gloves for the same reason. Also, the cement dries the heck out of your nails and skin. The Portland cement bag recommends wearing a mask.

Have a damp paper towel handy to wipe out your bowl as cleanly as possible once you're done your pots. Don't rinse out the contents of the dirty bowl down the sink. I'm sure your plumbing would NOT appreciate that.

1. Mix contents of your ziploc bags into a bowl.
2. Pour a bit less than 1 cup of water into the mixture and very thoroughly mix. The consistency should be like cottage cheese. If it is too dry, add another tablespoon of water until you get the right consistency. It's better to be a bit wet than a bit dry.
3. Pat a layer of your hypertufa firmly into the bottom and then a layer on the sides at least 2 inches thick. Too thin and the container won't hold up when released from the molds. Pat down the top of the sides so as to keep a consistent height and thickness.



4. Make a well in the middle of the container to make room for the smaller container which will be your planting spot.
5. Make sure the smaller container is deep enough that it will create a large enough planting space. You may need to put something heavy on top of the finished mold to hold it down.



6. Wrap your project in a plastic bag to let the Portland cement create the chemical bonds to hold it all together. Leave overnight in bag. After 24 hours have passed, gently remove the center of the pot. Leave the finished product in the plastic bag for a few more days to finished absorbing the water and hardening. If you want to make more, the Library has extra Portland cement that we'd love to share /get rid of it.
7. Plant your succulent and watch it grow. It will fill your container before you know it!

