

Preparing the Butterfly Mould

Before mixing the concrete, make sure the mould is clean and clear of dirt. If it has been used before, clean it up with soapy water or denatured alcohol, simply brush a little bit of light vegetable oil or mould release in the form. Not using mould release can make the stones more difficult to demould, and you'll need to be more careful not to damage the mould. Too much mould release will make air bubbles in the surface.

Mix Concrete:

When mixing concrete, always wear proper safety equipment (rubber gloves and a particle mask).
Mixing can be done with a proper concrete mixer, in a wheel barrow with a concrete hoe, or by hand with a trowel in a bucket, If you're mixing by hand, it's really important to take your time and get everything completely mixed" Tip: Adding colorant (Colour oxide powder or liquid stain) to the concrete will make stepping stones look more natural and beautiful.

Fill the Butterfly Mould:

Fill the bottom surface of mould with 1cm to 2cm of concrete and pat it down or shake the mould from side to side vigorously to drive out air bubbles. A fine wire mesh (chicken mesh) may be used in between the cement layers for strength. Then fill the mould completely to the top and smooth the top surface with a spatula so that the concrete is flat and level. Finish by tapping and shaking the mould, driving out as many air bubbles as possible.

Cure and Demould:

After the mould is full, place the mould on a level table top. Cover with plastic film and wait 24 hours to cure. Covering the cement mixture with a plastic film; will help keep the humidity inside. This will minimize surface cracking. After the cement has cured, then carefully pull up gradually on all sides until it is released.

Placing the Butterfly Stepping Stones:

Stepping stones are good for transitional spaces in the garden and for areas that get muddy. They can simply be placed on or planted into the ground for a snug fit. They can be also attached on large surface walls or on outside passage walls as decorative features.