

Concrete garden pavers

DD LaPointe, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

The Concrete Recipe

- 1 part Portland cement
- 2 parts aggregate- 3/8" crushed rock, pumice, pea gravel, etc.
- 3 parts sand
- 1 to-1 1/2 parts water

- **Mix** the dry ingredients well.
- Slowly **add water** and mix well until the concrete is workable. Don't add all of the water at once- you may not need the full amount. Continue to add water a little at a time until the mixture resembles a very thick pancake batter. (It should be thick enough not to drip through your fingers.)
- **Scoop** enough of the mixture into your mold to fill it. **Pack** it down.
- "**Screed**" with paint-stirring stick sliding and jiggling it back and forth over the surface of the concrete. This settles it and releases air bubbles. Scrape any excess mixture back into the tub.
- **Decorate** with mineral fragments.
- Allow it to **cure** for several days while keeping the surface damp before removing from mold.

Extension

Try various recipes for the paving stones. Observe the properties to see what recipe would be best for a specific purpose. Water is one of those components, and the amount of water can change the properties, including time to harden.

Additional Information

Components of concrete can be found at <http://archive.tri-cityherald.com/HOME/HOME/home39.html>

Various recipes for garden pavers:

http://www.gardenmolds.com/pages/howtos_concrete_mixes.shtml