

# DIY Mosaic Stepping Stone

## Mosaic Materials

- Concrete paver
- Premixed thin-set mortar
- Trowel (1/4" - 1/2" notches), paint stick, or flexible knife to apply mortar
- Bucket of water
- Optional: Rubber gloves

Weather-Resistant Mosaic Items (tesserae), ex:

- Precut glass mosaic tiles
- Broken pottery, porcelain, terracotta
- Crystals, polished stones, rocks
- Seashells, broken mirror
- Game pieces, marbles, coins
- Beads, jewelry pieces

## Grouting Materials

- Premixed grout + adhesive (program used "bright white" color)
- Putty knife or disposable spatula

- Bucket of water
- Sponge or rags
- Rubber gloves

### Notes Regarding Materials

Premixed thin-set mortar is adhesive cement used to secure tiles to concrete surfaces. It is a modified mortar made specifically for tiles and the kind of objects commonly used for mosaics.

Tesserae that are 1/2" to 1" adhere the best.

Use protective glasses and gloves if you are breaking china dishes or other objects to use in your mosaic.

## Preparation

1. Soak paver in water for about 20 minutes.

Presoaking helps the mortar stick better and removes concrete dust and debris.

2. Decide on design & lay out pieces.

Mortar dries quickly (about 15 minutes) so have your design in mind and all the tesserae you need laid out before you begin.

## Instructions ~ Mortar & Mosaic

Step 1. Apply mortar about 1/4" thick

- Option 1) Add mortar to small section of stone, then press tesserae into mortar
- Option 2) Apply mortar to back of tessera, then press onto stone

Step 2. Apply tesserae

- Begin at the outside working in; lay outlines first, then fill-in
- Firmly press so a bit of mortar rises up on all sides
- Allow some space between pieces to be grouted later
- Add extra mortar below thin pieces so they are even with the rest of the design

Step 3. Remove excess mortar

- When finished, use a damp sponge to wipe away excess mortar
- Wring-out sponge before wiping to avoid excess water weakening your design
- Let dry about 24 hours before grouting

Cont.

Grouting  
on  
back

## Instructions ~ Grout

**\*\*Set aside at least 1 hour to grout. The process of wiping and rinsing can be slow.\*\***

Step 1. Add a large dollop of grout to the middle of your design.

- Smooth grout across your stepping stone with a putty knife or spatula
- As you spread the grout, focus on the gaps between tesserae

Step 2. Use a lightly damp sponge or rag to wipe grout off tesserae.

- Rinse rag frequently to keep paver clean
- Use grout removed from tesserae to press into remaining gaps or edges
- Allow to cure 24-48 hours before placing in garden or desired location

*Optional:* Once dry, buff surface with a clean, soft cloth to remove any leftover grout residue.

## Notes

Despite best efforts, sometimes a piece pops off. Simply reattach with a small amount of waterproof adhesive (ex. E6000 glue).

Mosaic stones can be slippery when wet. Avoid placing in high-traffic or damp locations.

For best results, store in garage or shed during the winter.