

Step Into Fall: Steppingstones

Step Into Fall - Steppingstones is a Habitat - At Home project that allows youth to embrace their creativity and develop interest in landscaping and design. This activity is recommended for children ages 10 or older with adult supervision.

Through instruction and hands-on engagement, children will learn the importance of following procedures and experience what Habitat does behind-the-scenes to prepare for a successful landscaping day. Let your child's creativity run wild or choose from the designs included in the instruction document. Tag Habitat of NW Metro Atlanta on social media so we can see your finished works!

A. Geometric Steppingstones

Time: Hands-on activity will take 1-2 hours | Drying time: 1 week

Materials:

- Catering container lid — steppingstone mold
- Bag of standard concrete mix
- Concrete sealer
- Old bucket
- Gloves
- Plastic drop cloth
- Dust mask
- Protective eyewear
- Clean water
- Stick to stir and/or small shovel
- Cooking spray

Instructions:

1. Prepare workstation — lay the drop cloth on a level surface outside, have all materials close by on the cloth; wear protective eyewear and rubber gloves
2. Spray inside of your mold container with cooking spray
3. Mix concrete and water in the bucket according to directions on the package — stir until you achieve a thick consistency similar to batter
4. Fill mold to desired thickness
5. Repeat steps 2 through 4 until you reach your desired number of steppingstones
6. Cover the steppingstones with the plastic drop cloth and allow to dry for 24 hours; after 24 hours, remove the mold and place steppingstones in a ventilated space to cure for a week before removing them outside
7. Spray steppingstone with concrete sealer after the steppingstone has fully cured for a week

B. Number Steppingstones

Time: Hands-on activity will take 1-2 hours | Drying time: 1 week

Materials:

- 12" diameter concrete building tube
- Handheld circular saw or handsaw
- Painter's tape
- Large sheet of paper as a guide
- Box cutter
- Tape measure
- Plastic drop cloth
- Large bucket
- 2 bags of standard concrete mix
- 1 bag of sand/topping concrete mix or repair concrete
- Shovel and trowel
- House numbers 1-9 (optional)
- Pebbles or small stones
- Concrete sealer
- Safety gear – safety glasses, rubber gloves, ear protection, dusk mask

Instructions:

1. Wear safety glasses and ear protection when utilizing the saw and wear rubber gloves when handling the concrete
2. Cut the concrete building tube into ten 2-inch-thick molds using the handsaw or circular handheld saw- use a sheet of paper wrapped around the tube as a guide to cut the first ring; using a boxcutter, cut the ring through its width; use the cut ring as a guide for the remaining nine cuts; tape the rings back together.
3. Prepare the number shapes in the stones; lay out the stones to easily transfer them to the concrete
4. Set the tube rings on a plastic drop cloth and mix the standard concrete according to the instructions on the package in the bucket; fill the molds $\frac{3}{4}$ full of concrete and smooth them out with the trowel – try to remove any air bubbles
5. Mix the topping or repair concrete and add it to the top of each steppingstone
6. Set the stones in the concrete; repeat this step until all 9 numbers and a shape of your choice are set in concrete
7. Gently push some concrete around the stones with your fingertips to set them in place; if stones fall out, use glue to keep them in place
8. Cover the steppingstones with the plastic drop cloth and allow to dry for 24 hours; after 24 hours, remove the mold and place steppingstones in a ventilated space to cure for a week before removing them outside
9. Spray stepstone with concrete sealer after the stepstone has fully cured for a week