

DID YOU KNOW?

According to scientists, the colours most likely to catch the attention of bees up close are blue, purple and violet.



BEE HYDRATION STATION

Bees drink water not just for thirst but also to regulate hive temperature, feed young bees and dilute honey. This simple watering station provides a safe way for your pollinators to stay hydrated.

WORDS & PHOTOS KLAUDIA KRUPA

YOU WILL NEED

Materials

- 5mm x 35mm small wood offcut
- 25cm pot plant saucer
- Circular insert about 18cm wide and 1cm deep (we used a cork trivet)
- Blue glass gemstones
- Concrete release agent (we used car wax as an easy DIY option)
- Fine premixed concrete
- Preserving jar with lid
- Resene Aquapel & Terracotta Sealer
- Testpot of Resene Deep Koamaru
- Waterproof, non-toxic transparent glue/sealant

Tools

- Bucket
- Clean cloth
- Paintbrush
- Sandpaper

BEE SAFE

The overflow channel stops rainwater from overflowing the feeder, maintaining a constant water height just below the surface of the gemstones to prevent bees drowning.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Resene

the paint the professionals use

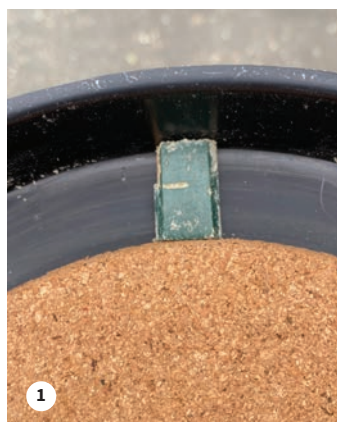
Step 1 Create a concrete mould by placing the circular insert inside the pot plant saucer, making sure it's centred and glue into position. Place the wooden offcut between the two, as shown (this will create an overflow channel).

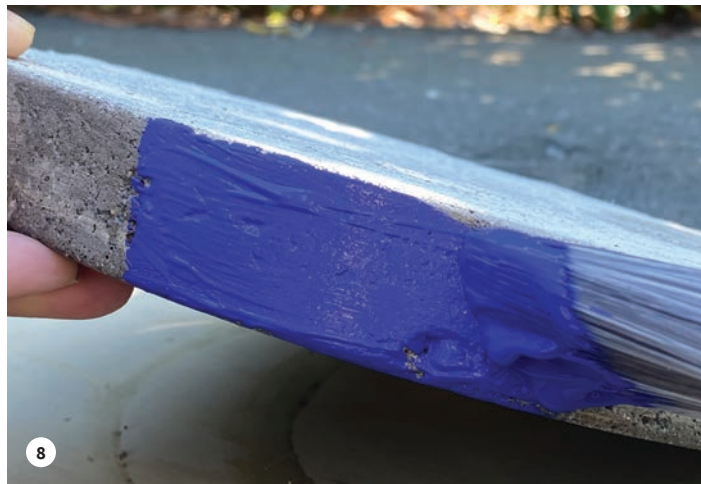
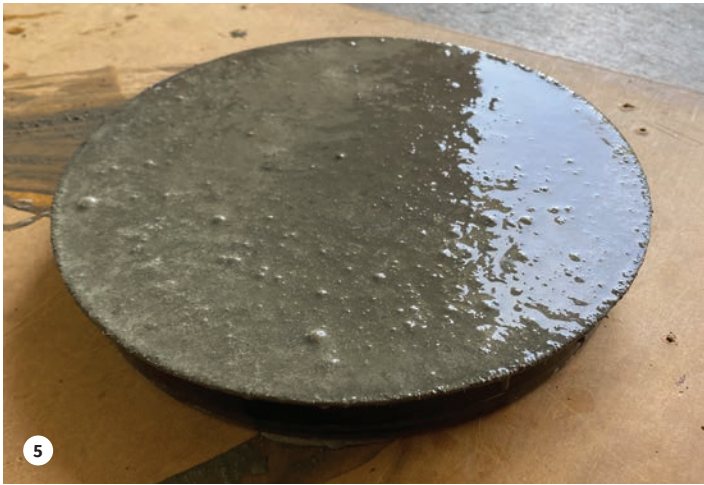
Step 2 Spread some concrete release agent over the mould by gently rubbing it across the surface with a clean cloth.

Make sure to cover all parts of the mould to ensure a smooth release.

Step 3 Mix a small amount of concrete with water in a bucket, paying close attention to the recommended water-to-mix ratio on the bag.

Step 4 Pour the concrete mixture into the mould, ensuring it reaches the brim.





Step 5 Lightly tap and shake the mould to release any trapped air bubbles, allowing the concrete to settle evenly. Leave it to set – we left it undisturbed for two days.

Step 6 Gently remove the concrete from the mould and sand down any rough spots. Wipe off any dust and debris.

Step 7 Apply one coat of Resene Aquapel & Terracotta Sealer to the outside and bottom of the concrete, allowing at least two hours to dry.

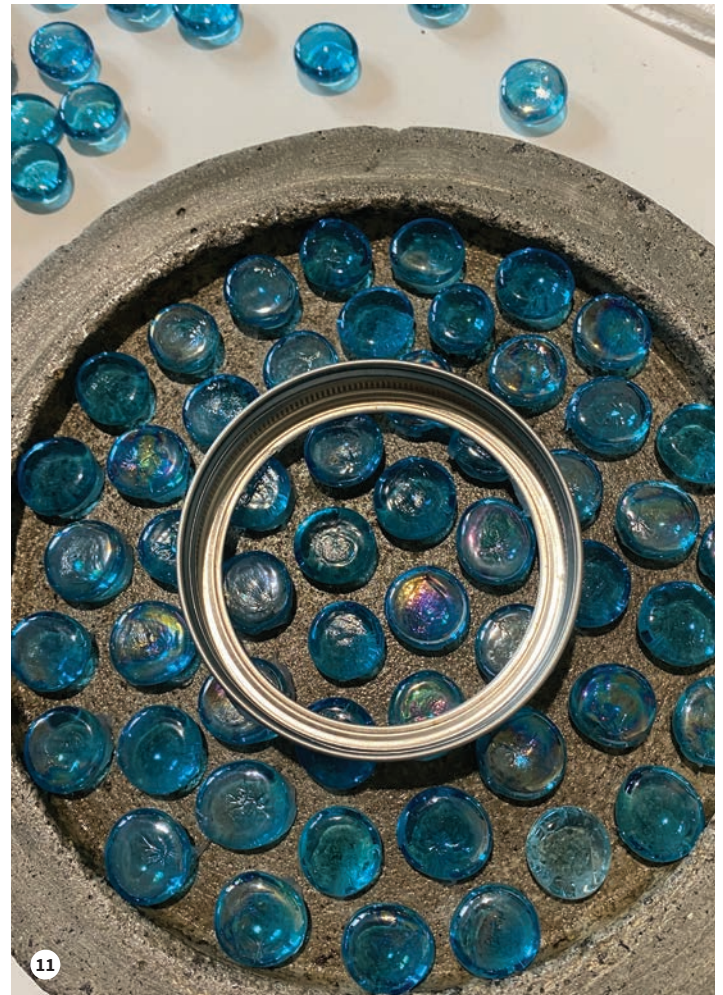
Step 8 Apply one coat of Resene Deep Koamaru to the outside and bottom of the concrete, allowing at least two hours to dry.

Step 9 Glue the gemstones to the base one by one, placing them flat side up to create ‘islands’ for the bees to land on. Leave small channels between them for water flow, making sure they’re not large enough for bees to drown.

Step 10 After gluing down all the gemstones, double-check to make sure that each one is level.

Step 11 Glue the jar band (without the sealing lid) upside down in the centre of the base, on top of the gemstones, as shown. Allow glue to dry.

Step 12 Fill your jar with water. Securely hold the jar with one hand and loosely attach the bee feeder base. In one swift motion, while firmly holding the jar on the base, flip the hydration station – this will hold the water in the jar. Position it in your garden (we placed ours on an upside-down plant pot), ensure it’s level, and let the water fill the channels. If the water creates a seal in the jar and doesn’t fill all the channels right away, gently tip it to allow airflow.



Cleaning Because the gemstones are securely glued to the base, cleaning and refilling your feeder is easy. Replace the water weekly and if cleaning your feeder, ensure you use proper hygiene practices, such as using non-toxic cleaning agents, to maintain a safe environment for the bees.



TIP

For a brighter finish, apply one coat of Resene Quick Dry waterborne primer to the outside and base of the concrete before applying Resene Deep Koamaru.

For more on paints and stains, phone 0800 RESENE (0800 737 363) or visit your Resene ColorShop resene.co.nz/colorshops

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Resene

the paint the professionals use