

POURING A CAST:

Just as the student participants in the Tumbler Ridge Dino Camps, you too can create a plaster cast using a few easy to find items and by following these instructions.

Casts can be made a number of ways using pre-made molds, by creating your own molds, or by even finding animal or human tracks in the sand. Two methods are described below. Both use many of the same materials the chief difference being that in the first the cast is made of a found footprint, preferably left in damp sand. The second suggests a method of creating a mold in which the cast is then poured.

You will need:

Plaster of Paris

Water

Container for mixing plaster (cup, bowl or basin)

Strips of cardboard

What you do:

- For a found footprint or track

- 1) Make a collar around the print by carefully placing strips of cardboard around the print. You should press the strips into the sand. The collar will help to keep the plaster in and will make removing the cast a little easier.
- 2) The best tracks will be found in damp (not wet) sand or around a mud puddle that has begun to dry. These prints will be well defined and should cast easily.
- 3) Mix the plaster according to manufacturers instructions. The mixture should be about as thick as a milkshake.
- 4) Pour plaster evenly over the track to a depth of about 3-5 cm (1 / 1 1/2 inch).
- 5) Leave plaster to set, until hard enough to remove from sand. (this will vary according to plaster instructions)
- 6) Once you have removed the cast from the sand a gentle cleaning might be necessary. Use soft brushes or a rag.
- 7) Identify your track searching books and internet sources on animal tracks and foot prints.

- If creating your own mold

You will also need: (these items are in addition to the list above)

Plasticene

Suggested items to make a mold from:

Plastic specimens such as small animals or dinosaurs

Chicken bones

Shells

If you do not have a footprint or track-way to cast you can make a mold of just about any object using plasticene.

1. Carefully press your animal, shell or object into the plasticene so that a relief image of the object remains when pulled carefully away.
2. Now you have a relief mold of the object in which you can pour plaster and make a cast.
3. Following the pouring and casting instructions as above.