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The DIY Concrete Project Guide

A free homeowner guide from cement.id

Calculating What You Need

The basics

- ☐ Measure volume (length x width x depth), not just area
- ☐ A 60 lb bag covers about 0.45 cubic feet; an 80 lb bag about 0.6
- ☐ Always round up 10% to cover measurement error and spillage

Common mistake

- ☐ Forgetting depth is the most common calculation error

Two Easy Starter Projects

Stepping stones

- ☐ Great low-cost, low-risk first concrete project
- ☐ Aim for a thick-oatmeal consistency when mixing
- ☐ Cure in the mold 24-48 hours before removing

Fence posts

- ☐ Bury about one-third of the post's total length
- ☐ Fast-setting mix skips the separate mixing step entirely
- ☐ Check the post is plumb before the mix sets

When to Call a Professional Instead

DIY-appropriate

- ☐ Small pours: stepping stones, single posts, small repairs

Call a contractor for

- ☐ Driveways, patios, and foundation work
- ☐ Anything needing proper forming, grading, or reinforcement

Ready to calculate your bags?

Get your exact bag count at cement.id, or get matched with a local contractor for bigger projects.

Visit cement.id ->