

How To Make Your Own Mammal Footprint!

**SUSSEX
WILDLIFE
TRUST**



Like you and me, animals and birds leave footprints wherever they walk. You can use our 'Tracks on the river bank' card to try and follow in the footsteps of our mammally friends, but you can also make your own footprint by following the instructions below! Make sure you go with an adult when you look for animal footprints.



You will need:

- An old yoghurt pot or margarine tub (round ones are better)
- Scissors (Get an adult to help you if using sharp scissors)
- Some plaster of paris
- An old pot to mix the plaster of paris in
- Some water
- A clean stick to stir the plaster of paris with



Instructions:

- Find a mammal footprint – good places to look are in soft muddy areas. The deeper and clearer the footprints look, the better your mammal footprint mould will be.
- Cut the bottom out of the margarine tub and push the cut end into the mud so it frames the footprint.
- Mix up the plaster of paris in the pot, making sure there are no lumps (use the instructions on the packet, but usually you need 2-3 times more plaster of paris than water).
- Pour the mixture in to the margarine tub, letting it run down the side of the tub so that air bubbles don't form in the footprint.
- Fill the footprint so that it is covered to the top (or you can fill the mould to about 1cm depth if you want the footprint to be mounted).
- Leave the plaster of paris to set for at least 10 minutes.
- When the plaster of paris has set, remove the tub and pick up your lovely mammal footprint – now you can make animal tracks too!
- Find out which mammal left you their footprint and you can learn more about the wildlife that visits your local area.

Hint:

You can also use resin plaster instead of plaster of paris – this sets harder and means your footprint will survive getting wet and being knocked or dropped!