

COOL CUBES

Rose Hughes creates a striking home for your favourite cacti and succulents



PHOTOS: ROSE HUGHES

Cool cacti and symmetric succulents are good choices for small pots and as easy-care indoor plants. They need little water and their chunky structural shapes are striking. Look out for plants at your garden centre or on the trading tables at garden club shows – but for the best selection of weird plants, visit your local Cactus and Succulent Society show. Auckland's show is on November 4-6 and Lower Hutt's on November 20 (the details are in our events guide, page 108). Simply Succulents (simplysucculents.co.nz) and Coromandel Cacti (cacti.co.nz) also have a great range of plants you can buy online.

MATERIALS

You will need: • 9 pots – mine were sourced from EziBuy and are made of an artificial polymer cement • Resene Smooth Surface Sealer, Quick Dry Primer or Concrete Primer • Masking tape • Paint brush and small roller set • Test pots – I used Resene 'Black', 'White', 'Copper Fire', 'Bullion' and 'Silver Aluminium' and the relevant undercoats for each of the metallics. • Resene Concrete Clear (available in flat, satin or gloss) • 6 suitably sized plastic pots for planting into • the plants of your choice

Cost: approximately \$135 (cost of the EziBuy pots) plus plants, paint, tools and pots.

- 1 The correct undercoat will depend on the composition of your pots. For cement-based pots the undercoat should be Resene Concrete Primer. For composite similar to mine Smooth Surface sealer or Quick Dry Primer will work well. Mask the painted areas in your chosen design.
- 2 Undercoat using a small roller or brush, allow to dry.
- 3 Top coat with your chosen colours. I used masking tape to create the striped effect.
- 4 Allow to dry, carefully remove the masking tape. Coat with Resene Concrete Clear to provide a more durable finish. ❖

4 handy tips!

for creating colourful terracotta pots...



1 Can't decide on just one colour? Combine your favourites. Simply use low tack masking tape to mark out different areas and paint each in your favourite Resene colour for a one-of-a-kind colour-blocked look.

2 Add some glam with a metallic finish brushed on in a crisscross pattern. Resene metallics come in handy Resene testpots, ideal for small projects.

3 When painting terracotta pots, always finish them inside and out with Resene Waterborne Aquapel before painting them. This will help to stop the water seeping through from the inside of the pot, so you don't get blisters on the paint finish.

4 If you prefer concrete pots with a 'natural look', apply Resene Waterborne Aquapel. It's a clear penetrating finish that will help keep the surface looking fresher and cleaner for longer.

For more project ideas visit:
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