



Here's another Question from a customer:

***“I have been doing face casting for Theatre make up for awhile, but have just started doing hand casting. I am finding that I am having a difficult time with airbubbles in the finished product. What is the best way to mix the liquid stone so as not to create airbubbles? I have tried to pour the LifeCAST stone slowly into the mold while tapping on the side, to try and get the airbubbles to rise.....***

***I am trying to add lifecasting to my theatre make up business, but at this point, I need to perfect my finished product.“***

As far as we know, the only way to absolutely remove all the air bubbles from alginate or stone is with a vacuum. Unfortunately the equipment is pretty expensive and bulky. We are working on a simpler design and will make it available sometime soon.

The next best way that I know of is using a dental vibrator. This is a small box-shaped device that vibrates when switched on. If you set your bowl of mixed stone on the vibrator and agitate the bowl by tapping or tipping it back and forth, the stone “liquifies” (gets thinner) so the bubbles can more easily head for the surface. This works best in a bucket or bowl that is wide and shallow because you have more surface area. The vibrator also works well when you're actually pouring the stone into the mold. The stone liquifies a little bit allowing it to flow more readily into all the nooks and crannies. More bubbles will come to the surface and pop as you pour and the bubbles that are still in the stone will tend to rise toward the surface.

I put my bowl of stone on the vibrator for a couple of minutes, sloshing it around, before I pour. Then I pour the mold about half full- vibrate it for about 30 seconds- fill the mold- and vibrate it for at least another minute. Our castings have been coming out really well with this technique.

Dental vibrators are available from dental supply houses like Patterson or Henry Schein. You don't have to be a dentist to purchase them like with some products- and an inexpensive one will set you back about \$50. Also check E-Bay for them. Keep the vibrator clean by wrapping it in a plastic bag for your first couple of tries and if it doesn't work to your satisfaction, send the thing back.