String Light Concrete Planters

Hang outdoor string lights from posts set in concrete-filled planters. They're easy to make, you can move them anywhere, and the planters double as decor once you add plants.





Tools

- [ ] Cordless drill and a small drill bit
- [ ] Level
- [ ] Bucket or wheelbarrow and a trowel for mixing
- [ ] Stapler and staples
- [ ] Paint brush
- [ ] Scrap wood and weights (to brace the posts while the concrete sets)

Supplies

- [ ] Treated 2" x 2" x 8' lumber, one per planter
- [ ] Planter pots
- [ ] Concrete mix
- [ ] Exterior paint or stain
- [ ] Screw hooks
- [ ] Outdoor string lights
- [ ] Outdoor extension cord, if needed
- [ ] Potting soil and plants (I used succulents)

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Step 1: Prep the posts

I used treated 2" x 2" x 8' boards and painted them with a coat of exterior black paint. For a bigger space or heavier lights, upgrade to 4" x 4" x 8' posts and larger pots.





Step 2: Mix the concrete

Mix the concrete with water following the directions on the bag. I used Sakrete concrete mix at about a 50/50 ratio of mix to water and filled each pot about 3/4 of the way. Any size or style of planter works. I used small metal planters from IKEA.







Step 3: Set the posts

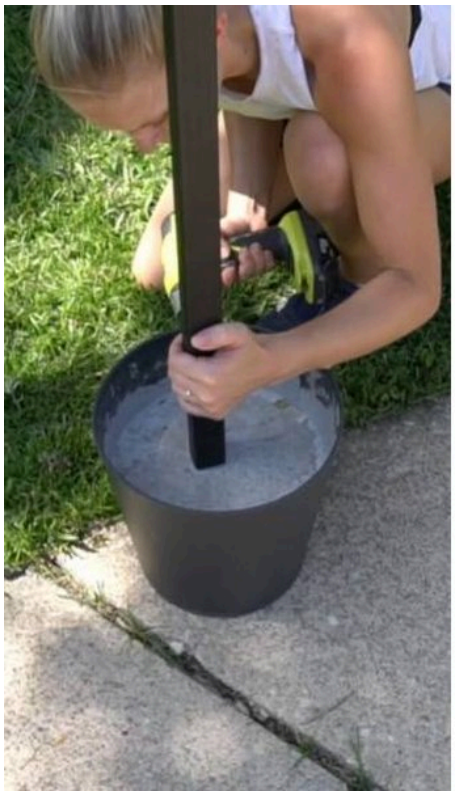
Push a post into the wet concrete and check it with a level so it's straight. Brace it with scrap wood and weights so it stays plumb, then let it set according to the concrete mix instructions.





Step 4: Drill drainage holes

Drill a few small holes in the side of each pot, just above the concrete, so water has somewhere to drain.

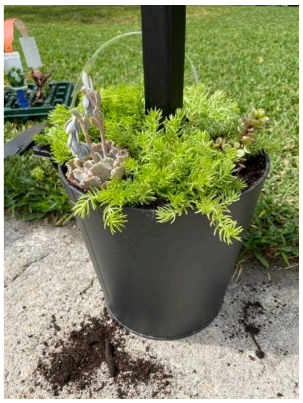




Step 5: Add soil and plants

Fill the rest of each pot with potting soil and your favorite plants.





Step 6: Hang the string lights

Screw a hook into the top of each post and hang your string lights. If you need an extension cord to reach an outlet, use an outdoor-rated one. I stapled the cord down the back of the last post to keep it hidden.





More from this project

- Watch the full YouTube tutorial
- DIY Concrete Countertops