

Iodine Blocks

How to make your own.

Some breeders prepare their own blocks, using a mixture of ground-up shell (oyster, etc), fine mineral grit, crushed eggshell (from chickens), charcoal, cuttlefish bone and a fine calcium powder (such as Plaster of Paris) for binding. The mixture, once water is added, will form a gloop somewhere between porridge and cement, and can be put into plastic ice trays or cups to dry. The plastic cup will stick to the side of the mineral block and will need to be removed with a knife before serving to the budgies.

You may choose to use some or all of these ingredients. However the charcoal & Iodine are essential.

MINERAL BLOCK RECIPE:

(Ingredients vary from batch to batch depending on availability)..

6 Parts – Preferably Calcium Carbonate (Food Grade) OR Plaster of Paris may be used.

3 Parts - Non-Toxic Clay

2 Parts - Diatomaceous Earth (Fossil Shell Flour)

1 Part - Sea Sand (or Shell Grit)

1 Part - Bone Meal

1 Part - Crushed Cuttlebone

1 Part - Chick Grit (Crushed Granite)

1 Part - Crushed Oyster Shell (Fine)

1 Part - Mineralized Grit

1 Part - Charcoal

1 Part - Powdered Kelp/Seaweed (for Iodine) OR Kelp tablets OR Liquid Iodine mixed in the water.

1 Part - Crushed Egg Shells

1 Tablespoon - Coarse Sea Salt

Directions: Pour filtered water into a jug and let sit overnight.

Mix all ingredients, then gradually add water until you have a thick soupy mixture. Make sure it is thoroughly mixed.. then pour into moulds and let stand until the blocks are solid. Remove from the moulds and allow to stand 24-48 hours until blocks are dry.

Other items needed:

- o Twist ties, Paper clips or wire for Iodine block hook
- o Ice trays or other mould

Making Iodine Blocks:

- o Pour mixture into ice trays or moulds.
- o Wait for a few minutes and when mixture starts to set insert twist ties, clips or wires.
- o Let it stand for one day.
- o Remove from ice trays or moulds and let it stand a further day.
- o Use as required.