

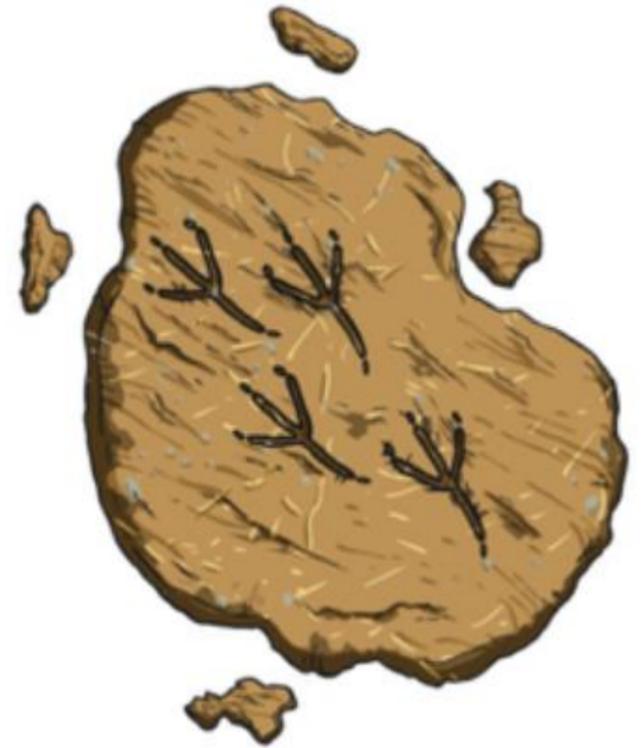


# Making Tracks

Have you found some footprints or suspect there is something snuffling about in your garden?

Let's explore some different ways to preserve these imprints or discover who is having a night-time forage in the flower beds.

Time to put some science into action!



## Plaster Cast Footprints

You will need:

- Strip of card approx. 50mm wide and long enough to make a collar around the print you want to cast, plus 40mm overlap OR circular sections cut from large plastic drinks bottles
- Two paper clips
- Tub for mixing plaster in – empty 500g margarine tub
- Spoon
- Water
- Plaster of Paris – about three heaped tablespoons for a small cast

Method:

Find a clear animal print, preferable in mud, and carefully clear away any twigs and leaves from the area.

Place your card or plastic collar around the print, creating a water tight seal around the area you are casting from.

Mix the Plaster of Paris to medium consistency and pour carefully into the collar, covering the print completely to at least 1cm deep. Once dry, carefully remove the collar and lift the plaster to reveal the print. Once set and fully hardened, the print can be washed and varnished if desired. *Don't forget to label it!*



## Footprint Tunnel

You will need:

- Corrugated plastic or large piece of cardboard (big enough to form a large triangle tunnel)
- A4 paper
- Thin sponge strips
- Masking tape and Paper clips
- Small plastic bowl
- Paint brush
- water based paint mixed with a little vegetable oil
- Hedgehog food/meaty pet food

Method:

Lay the cardboard or corrugated plastic flat and tape a piece of A4 paper in the center at each end. Tape a sponge strip above each sheet of paper.

Mix the paint or carbon powder with the oil and brush onto the sponge.

Add a little food to the centre, between the two sponges.

Fold up the sides to form a triangle tunnel, seal it with tape and place in a sheltered spot overnight. The mammal will walk over the paint to get to the food, leaving footprints on its way out!

Instruction video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NO8poUcTSx0>