

# HOW TO MAKE A TERRACOTTA FLOWER POT OLLA



## SUPPLIES

- 2 terracotta flower pots or 1 flower pot and 1 terracotta saucer\*
- Hole plug (recommend a penny)
- Waterproof glue (recommend Gorilla Glue®)
- Waterproof silicone caulk

\* The size of the flower pots depends upon the location you plan to use the olla. For 24" containers suggest two 6-8" pots, for smaller containers suggest one 6-8" pot and one saucer. Suggest two 8-12" sized pots or one 12" or greater pot with corresponding saucer for raised or sunken garden beds with at least a 2 foot depth. If using saucers find a saucer that has the same sized rim as the pot.

## STEP 1 - PLUG THE HOLE

You want the olla to seep water from the pores of the olla, not run out through the hole. Therefore, it is necessary to plug the hole of one of the terracotta pots. If you were using a pot and a saucer do not plug the hole of the pot as this is where you will fill it with water.

A penny is the perfect size for most terracotta pots. Alternatively you can use a flat stone, glass bead, piece of plastic, or other relatively flat material. Glue the plug material to the pot using waterproof glue. Cover entire plug area with caulk. Allow to dry according to glue and caulk instructions.



## STEP 2 - GLUE TOGETHER OLLA

Place a bead of glue on the rims of both pots. If using a pot and saucer, place a bead of glue on the rim of the saucer and the pot. Follow instructions for the glue. For example, Gorilla Glue® requires the surface to be wet. Invert pieces so the glued rims are together. Place a heavy paving stone or other object on top of inverted pots to weigh them down. This will help achieve a tight seal. Let dry for several hours.



## STEP 3 - SEAL OLLA

Place a bead of caulk along the seam between the pots. Use a sponge or your finger to press caulk into the seam to achieve a tight seal. The pots will be buried so it does not have to look attractive. Let caulk dry and set overnight.

## STEP 4- TEST YOUR OLLA

Before burying your ollas it is a good idea to fill with water and look for excessive seepage along the seam. If you notice water leaking from the seam, empty water and allow to dry. Re-seal the area with more caulk.

## STEP 5- INSTALL THE OLLA

Bury your olla with at least 1-2" remaining above the surface. Fill with water. Top off with water again after about 30 minutes and the water has percolated into the soil and clay pores. Place a saucer, mason jar lid, or a flat stone over the hole. Periodically top off the water level of the olla.



Finished ollas made from a 6" diameter pot (left) and saucer and two 8" pots (right).

A terracotta pot olla made from 2 6" pots installed in an 18" container planted with a tomato. It is capped with a mason jar lid.

