

❶ You will need a bucket (or two), a shovel (ideally one with a long handle and a small scoop), a trowel or putty knife, a soft-bristled paintbrush, a misting water bottle and a plastic drinking straw. You can also use a sandcastle mold if you want to speed up the design process.

❷ Build a foundation. Create a large pile of sand. Ensure the stability of the pile by using your shovel to make deep holes and filling them with water. Test the solidity of the pile by stomping on it, and repeat the process of adding water and poking holes if necessary.

❸ Pack and shape the sand starting from the tallest element until it feels secure and roughly shaped. Carve and smooth the surface using one of your smoothing tools. Use your mold if you'd like. Carefully remove the mold and repeat the process to make more towers.

❹ The pancake method (similar to bricklaying) is recommended as it offers the most solid foundation. Scoop up a handful of sand and water mixture and flatten it into a layer that is approximately one inch thick. Continue this process, stacking the flattened layers to create sturdy towers or to add height to your sculpture.

❺ The sand will dry out the more you work with it. Throughout your process, make sure you use your water bottle to keep the sand moist.

❻ Use sand that closely resembles silt. Silty sand enables you to build a firm and towering structure with intricate undercuts and cut-throughs.

❼ Use your tools to carve out windows and doors. Use shells, rocks and seaweed to decorate your castle with moats and drawbridges.

❽ When you're done, mist your castle with water to protect it from the wind.

Tools *you* Need



SHOVEL



WATER BOTTLE



PUTTY KNIFE



BUCKET



PAINT BRUSH



TROWEL



STRAW



Plastic eating utensils will work in a jam to create a smooth surface.

DON'T MISS THIS

Delaware State Parks is sponsoring a sandcastle contest on July 8 at Indian River Inlet.

When you post pics of your masterpieces, tag us too! [#TheCapeCurrent](#)