

# Pewter Casting Supply List

This list is not comprehensive; there are a number of companies that carry these kinds of supplies. These companies merely are the ones that we have either used or have personal knowledge of.

**BE SAFE!!** Always use **LEAD FREE** alloys for casting. Your internal organs will thank you for it.

## Pewter/Low Temp Alloy Suppliers

### Conquest Industries

Conquest Industries, Inc  
9915 Bell Ranch Drive  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Phone (562) 906-1111

Fax (562) 906-1112

**Website:** <http://www.conquestind.com/metalAlloys/>

Conquest has a very wide variety of lead free pewter alloys. 2 of the alloys we have used from Conquest are OR-8 and Aquaclean (a very shiny silver bearing lead free pewter alloy).

### Atlas Metal Sales

Division of AMIC  
1401 Umatilla St.  
Denver, CO 80204

800-662-0143

303-623-0143

Fax: 303-623-3034

**E-mail:** [jsimms@atlasmetal.com](mailto:jsimms@atlasmetal.com)

**Website:** <http://www.atlasmetal.com/>

### Ney Metals

269 Freeman Street  
Brooklyn, New York, 11222

(718) 389-4900

**Fax:** (718) 349-2313

**Website:** <http://www.neymetals.com/>

### Purity Casting Alloys Ltd. (20 minutes from Vancouver, Canada)

18503 - 97th Ave  
Surrey, BC V4N 3N9  
Canada

Phone: (604) 888-0181 (8am - 4pm PST)

Fax: .... (604) 888-8318.....

**Website:** <http://www.purityalloys.com>

**E-mail:** [purityalloys@yahoo.com](mailto:purityalloys@yahoo.com)

For more information contact Guillaume de St. Michel or Christiana de Mandeville at:

[Guillaume@pewtering.com](mailto:Guillaume@pewtering.com) or [Christiana@pewtering.com](mailto:Christiana@pewtering.com)

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## Soap Stone:

### Stone Sculptors Supplies

2534-E East Washington Ave.  
Escondido, CA 92027

Studio/Store Address (where you can go to buy soapstone)

Phone: (760) 489-1424

Fax: (760) 489-1624

**E-mail:** [info@stonesculptorssupplies.com](mailto:info@stonesculptorssupplies.com)

**Website:** <http://www.stonesculptorssupplies.com/>

Please call for their hours (Normally 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tues – Sat)

Notes: Their Soapstone prices run from \$1.65 to \$1.75 per pound. To give you an idea of how much stone that is, a 1-foot cube (1728 cubic inches) of soapstone weighs (on average) 175 pounds. That works out to 384 – 3-inch square by 1/2-inch deep slabs. The **Bombay Black Steatite** has a particularly fine grain.



### Blackpearl Soapstone

1229 Harris St-Suite 1  
Charlottesville VA 22903

Phone Orders: 800-373-6352

**Website:** <http://www.blackpearlsoapstone.com/>

### Sculptor.Org

Their site has a section with lots of soapstone suppliers

<http://www.sculptor.org/Stone/Soapstone.htm>

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## Cuttlefish Bone (aka Cuttlebone):

### Anaheim Feed and Pet Supply, Inc.

1730 N. Lemon St.  
Anaheim, CA 92801

714-992-2012

Anaheim Feed has really great, really big pieces of cuttlefish bone sold either “loose (one piece for \$.99 or in bags with “super size” pieces for around \$3.00).

### PetsMart

**Website:** [www.petsmart.com](http://www.petsmart.com)

Try looking under bird supplies and also using the “Search” tools on their site. Cuttlefish bone is listed as “cuttlebones” in the “Parrot Shop” under “Treats”.

### Cuttlebone Plus

810 North Twin Oaks Valley Road  
#131  
San Marcos, CA 92069

Phone: 760- 591-4951

Fax: 760- 591-4556

Order Desk 1-800-747-9878

**E-mail:** [sales@cuttleboneplus.com](mailto:sales@cuttleboneplus.com)

**Websites:** <http://www.cuttleboneplus.com> (look under the “online store”)



Cuttlefish Bone is available via most pet stores and pet supply stores. Basically Cuttlefish bone is the ellipsoidal “chew toy” that bird owners mount in their pet bird’s cage. If possible, locate a larger “feed and pet supplies” store as they normally carry Cuttlefish Bone at much lower prices. Sizes range from 4 inches to around 8 inches in length (from a feedstore).

### Some side notes on “Cuttlefish bone/Cuttlebone:

You can also purchase cuttlebone from “Jewelry Supply” sites. They “jewelry grade” cuttlefish bone can run as high as \$30 for 6 pieces. For years, we had assumed (incorrectly) that there must be something extraordinary about cuttlebone sold by jewelry supply companies. We thought it must have some special qualities; perhaps it was “softer” to work with or held “detail” better. At \$30 per a box (4 to 6 pieces), we thought that it must be “hot stuff” to be so pricey.

Last year, I finally broke down and bought a box of “jewelry grade” cuttlefish bone. When it arrived, we compared it directly with our “pet store” grade cuttlebone. Upon close examination and use, we determined, IT IS EXACTLY THE SAME STUFF, you just get to pay a fortune for it. So save yourselves a rude surprise and just get the stuff from the pet store, it works just as well and you can save the money you save to buy yourself a nice little melting pot.

**For more information contact Guillaume de St. Michel or Christiana de Mandeville at:**

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## **Non Period - Silicone Mold Making Materials**

### **CASTINGS, A DIV. OF REB TOYS, INC.**

P.O. BOX 298  
Eastsound WA 98245-0298  
(360) 376-3266 (8:30am-5:00pm pacific coast time.)

For orders ONLY call:

1-800-346-0567

Fax: (360) 376-3280

Email address: [castings@miniaturemolds.com](mailto:castings@miniaturemolds.com)

Website: <http://www.miniaturemolds.com/mainframe.htm>

This is the company that we get most of our high temperature Silicone RTV from.

## **Casting Equipment (Melting Pots Ladles, Safety Gear, etc)**

### **Lee Precision Inc**

**(Manufacturer of Reloading Supplies, i.e. Melting Pots and Gear)**

4275 Highway U  
Hartford, Wisconsin 53027

262-673-3075 Voice

262-673-9273 FAX

**Website:** <http://www.leeprecision.com/>

### **CASTINGS, A DIV. OF REB TOYS, INC.**

**(See their contact information above)**

In addition to selling high temperature silicones, this company also carries various melting pots, ladles, gloves, etc.

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## Equipment Notes:

A good source for Melting pots is your local gun store. Most carry reloading supplies which normally includes a variety of LEE Lead Melting Pots. A Small pot (4 pounds) costs around \$40.00, larger pots (10 or 20 pounds) cost from \$65 to \$95.



**Lee 4 pound pot (\$35.00)**



**Lee 20-Pound Pot  
(around \$79.00)**



**Lee Pot for Melting on an  
electric heat source (approx  
\$4.00)**



**Lead ladle (approx. \$4.00)**

Another item that is handy to have is a metal thermometer. They can also normally be bought where reloading supplies can be found. The temperature range they depends on the manufacturer. The metal thermometers run around \$30 to \$40. They are a bit expensive, but worth every penny. Different alloys have different optimum casting temperatures and the thermometer allows you to keep your metal at its best casting temperature with out guesswork.

You can also melt pewter using a standard Propane “blow torch”. You can buy a basic torch kit from the hardware stored (about \$12 to \$14 dollars). An electric “hot plate” and a small cast iron pot can also be used to melt pewter (about \$16 for a hot plate from True Value Hardware and around \$10 to \$15 for a small cast iron pot).

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## **Safety Gear: (Normally can be bought at larger hardware stores)**

For casting you should own/use the following safety gear:

- 1) **High Temperature Gloves** – Welding gloves work pretty well and they have a large gauntlet that helps to protect your lower arm if you should happen to spill any molten metal.
- 2) **Safety Goggles or Glasses** – You only have one pair of eyes, take care of them. Metal can splash from time to time and molten metal in the eye is something you really want to avoid. You can also buy full-face shields that protect the entire face, however they sometimes fog up.
- 3) **“Dust/Particle” Masks** – Sanding/working with cuttlefish bone and soapstone produces dust that you should keep out of your lungs. To protect yourself, you should wear at least a dust/particulate filter mask when casting with your metal. Molten pewter also can produce a fine particulate when you skim the pot free of dross (the scum that forms on top of the molten metal). These ultra fine particles are definitely **NOT** healthy for your respiratory system. If you intend to take up casting, you should buy a high quality CATRIDGE respirator with filters for fine particulates.

### **Additional notes:**

You should wear long sleeves, pants and closed toe footwear while casting. Try to wear natural fibers such as cotton or wool. Synthetics can melt if splashed, so you not only get a burn from the metal, but your clothing can also end up fused to your skin. Always remember to work in a well-ventilated area when casting. Also, while you can melt pewter alloys on your stovetop, we recommend getting a mini-hot plate or a melting pot for your casting use. In general, it is a very good idea to separate your hobbies from any of your food preparation areas.

In addition, get copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS for short) for the alloys you work with. They have a wealth of information concerning precautions for the materials you will be dealing with. We have included a number of on-line MSDS sources.

### **MSDS Sources:**

**Cornell University Environmental Health and Safety (FREE)**

<http://msds.pdc.cornell.edu/msdssrch.asp>

**MSDS Online (Fee Based)**

<http://www.msdonline.com/>

**Yahoo Directory - Workplace Health > Material Safety Data Sheets**

[http://dir.yahoo.com/Health/Workplace/Material\\_Safety\\_Data\\_Sheets\\_MSDS/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Health/Workplace/Material_Safety_Data_Sheets_MSDS/)

**University of California, Davis**

<http://www.ehs.ucdavis.edu/im/msds.html>

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# References and Suggested Reading

## Pewter/General Casting References:

### **Cast Pewter Jewelry**

Kain, Jay  
Davis Publications, Inc  
Worcester, Massachusetts, 1975

### **The Complete Metalsmith: An Illustrated Handbook**

McCreight, Tim  
Davis Publications, Inc  
Worcester, Massachusetts, 1991

### **Metal Casting (previously published as the Metal Caster's Bible in 1980 by McGraw Hill)**

Ammen, C.W.  
McGraw Hill  
New York, 1980

### **Pewter-Working: Instructions and Projects**

Osburn and Wilber  
Dover Publications, Inc  
New York, 1979

### **Pewter-Working: Spun, Wrought and Cast**

Osburn and Wilber  
International Textbook Company  
Scranton, Pennsylvania, 1938  
(Republished by Dover books and Pewter-Working: Instructions and Projects)

### **Practical Casting**

McCreight, Tim  
Brynmorgen Press  
Cape Elizabeth, ME, 1994

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## **Historical References:**

### **The Craftsman's Handbook (The Italian "Il Libro Dell Arte"**

Cennini, Cennino D'Andrea (Translated by Thompson, Daniel)  
Dover Publications  
New York, 1960

### **The Currency of Fame: Portrait Medals of the Renaissance**

Scher, Stephen  
Harry H. Abrams, Inc.  
New York, 1994

### **The Documentary History Series: Medieval Pilgrims**

Kendall, Alan  
Wayland Publishers Ltd.  
East Sussex, England, 1986

### **A Guide to British Medieval Seals**

Harvey and McGuinness  
University of Toronto Press  
Toronto, Canada, 1996

### **Medieval Pilgrim and Secular Badges**

Mitchiner, Michael  
Hawkins Publications  
London, England, 1986

### **Pilgrim Souvenirs and Secular Badgers: Medieval Finds from Excavations in London**

Spencer, Brian  
Museum of London  
The Stationary Office  
Southampton, England, 1998

### **Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Medieval Catalogue Part 2**

#### **Pilgrim Souvenirs and Pilgrim Badges**

Spencer, Brian  
Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum  
Wiltshire, England, 1990

### **Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Medieval Catalogue Part 1**

#### **Harness Pendants, Seals, Rings, Textiles, Spurs, Arrowheads, Tiles, Coins, Mortars...**

Saunders, Peter and Eleanor  
Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum  
Wiltshire, England, 1991

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