

## **Breaking open the Waste Mold**

Rest the mold on a large sponge or cushion after soaking in water for at least twenty minutes. You will need a wooden mallet. To make sure the mallet head does not come off while working, soak it and/or pound it to be sure it is tightly on. You will also need a small to medium blade chisel. Wear eye protection. You will need a garbage can with bin liner to dump the trash. You'll clean off and save the strapping.

The mold is removed from the hydracal piece in reverse order to how it was constructed. The side strips of plaster soaked burlap over the seams holding the two pieces together come off first. Next remove the strapping. Then start with the back section to take off the ribs. Smash the ribs with the mallet hitting across the rib, first softening it up. Pliers can also be helpful to grip and pull the ribs away from the mold. You can pry under the rib with the chisel. Horizontal ribs come off first as they were the last put on the mold. This material is not reusable and eventually goes into landfill.

After the ribs are removed, go back and chip into the edge of the wall to lever under the blanket of the covering. Be careful not to hit the hydracal piece itself. Some of the wall may also come away. The front side cover will stick more than the back because the front part contains the head's features. This process of removing the covering needs a lot of care and patience.

Remove the wall. Use a smaller tool to get the last of the shell. Never point the chisel into the hydracal piece. The blue shell layer is removed. Take much care around the features. Work the seams along the piece while there is still some moisture in the hydracal. You want to get rid of the demarcation line between the front and back of the piece by working with the texture around the seam.

Take out all remnants of blue shell layer with dental tools or a sharp pointed knife. Any pieces of the hydracal piece accidentally knocked off must be kept and can be reattached. You will not be doing any sanding until the piece is perfectly dry.