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Vibratory Tumbling Instructions

Using Your Different Grits, Capacities:

Raytech tumblers are very useful for smoothing and polishing a wide variety of stones. They are particularly useful for finishing sawed or ground to shape preforms where the surface of the stone must be smoothed and polished without destroying the basic shape. It is recommended that the tumbler bowl be filled to capacity for the tumbling action to be effective. If too much of the stone is lost in the rough grinding step, it is better to make two batches of rough ground rock and choose only the best of those to continue with the subsequent steps. The stones will finish the best if there is a mixture of sizes included. A considerable portion of small pieces of stone is very helpful in finishing the hollow areas. Note: Stones of mixed hardness usually do not finish well if combined in the same batch. In most cases it is more beneficial to finish only one type of material at a time. It is good practice to scrub and wash the stones thoroughly between steps to avoid contamination, thus the reason why we recommend a second bowl as the rougher grits can become embedded in the walls of the bowl, preventing the stones from being polished.

STEP	GRIT	QUANTITY OF GRIT	WATER REQUIRED	CYCLE TIME	COMMENTS
I Rough Grind	Silicon Carbide 100/120	2 teaspoons every 12 hours. Rinse out sludge every other time grit is added. New grit required as old grit breaks down and sludge no longer feels gritty.	If rocks are dry, add 4 tps. If rocks are wet from rinsing, add half the quantities above. If tumbling actions slows down from evaporation, add enough water to restore tumbling action. Check every 8 hours.	5-10 days	The Tumble-Vibe is especially useful for finishing stones where the shape should not be greatly altered, as with sawed or ground preforms. For full rounded stones, Step One is best completed with a rotary tumbler.
II Fine Grind	Silicon Carbide 600F or 700F	2 teaspoons	Same As Above	1 - 2 Days	If soft stones tumbled, this step should continue long enough to break down the grit to a fine particle. At least 2 days will probably be required after last grit addition.
III Pre-Polish	Iolox 50	2 teaspoons	Same As Above	1 Days	Eliminate this step with soft stones such as Dolomite, Malachite, Rhodochrosite, etc.
IV Polish	Raybrite TL	2 teaspoons	Same As Above	1 - 2 Days	Change entire load after 1 day.