

# From Petals to Keepsakes

## Preserving My Daughter's Wedding Bouquet with Love

### STEP 1: Preserving the Bouquet with Silica Gel

#### What You'll Need:

- Silica gel crystals (find it at craft stores or online)
- An airtight container (large enough to fit your blooms without squishing them)
- Scissors or floral shears
- Gloves & Face Mask (optional, but I recommend just for added safety)
- A soft brush (for removing excess silica)

#### Instructions:

- Disassemble the Bouquet: Gently take apart the bouquet, separating the flowers you want to preserve. \*We also preserved my son-in-law's boutonniere to create a special keepsake for his parents).
- Trim and Prep: Trim stems to about 1/2 inch and remove any damaged petals or leaves.
- Layer with Silica Gel: Pour a layer of silica gel into your container. Gently nestle the blooms face-up into the gel, then slowly pour more gel around and over the flowers until they're completely covered.
- Seal and Wait: Seal the container and store it in a cool, dry place for 5-7 days. Some larger or denser flowers may need a few extra days.
- Remove and Clean: Once dried, carefully remove the flowers using a spoon or gloved hands. Use a soft brush to dust off any remaining crystals.

### STEP 2 - Creating Resin Momentos

#### Basic Resin Supplies:

- Epoxy resin and hardener
- Silicone molds (your shape of choice)
- Mixing cups and stir sticks
- Gloves and a respirator or mask
- Torch or heat gun (to remove bubbles)

#### Steps:

- Set Up Your Space: Make sure you're in a well-ventilated area. Cover surfaces and wear gloves.
- Mix the Resin: Follow the instructions to mix the resin and hardener thoroughly.
- Add Flowers: Pour a small layer of resin into the mold first. Let it sit for a few minutes. Then carefully place your flowers in, adjusting with a toothpick or tweezers. Pour more resin to cover the flowers.
- Remove Bubbles: Use a torch or heat gun briefly over the surface to pop bubbles.
- Cure: Let your mold cure for 24-72 hours depending on the resin used. Don't rush this—patience creates the clearest finish!
- Demold and Polish (Optional): Once hardened, remove from the mold. You can lightly sand or polish edges if desired.

