

Case Study //

Ice Block Cooler



No doubt you have seen an ice bucket at a restaurant, chilling a bottle of Champagne or other fine wine. Or what about tailgating at the game and you had to bring that big, heavy cooler sloshing around with ice and your bottled or canned beverages? Michael Lester had a different idea: the Ice Block Cooler.

This beautifully crafted cooler can easily keep six bottles or cans (or a bottle of wine) cool for hours, all while being stylishly lit up by the built in LEDs, with no ice required due to its internally-housed freezer gel. Just recharge the Ice Block Cooler in the freezer and its ready to go.

In order to get the Ice Block Cooler in the marketplace for the holiday season, Michael Lester enlisted the help of ICOMold. He had his design from the design house, but it didn't look quite like the existing design.

Michael Zhao, President of ICOMold explains, "Mr. Lester needed to get his product to market in time for the holiday season so **we made the injection mold tooling in three and a half weeks as**

opposed to eight or nine weeks he was being quoted from other shops. The design for the cooler didn't have the icy look it has now. We took the design and reshaped the outside in CAD to give it the chiseled ice block look."

The LED lighting was an integrated system inside the unit that was kept isolated from the freezer gel. Once samples were made, there were issues with mechanical parts that were ironed out but the more pressing issue was getting the right type of material to fit inside the cooler's cavities where the drinks would rest.

ICOMold was consulted when selecting the right materials to hold different sizes of containers and to keep them safe from breaking when moving the unit from place to place. Ultimately, a silicone material acting as a hugging gasket kept bottles or cans in place to keep them safe and cool.

The final Ice Block Cooler product is about one-half the size of an average cooler that could hold the same amount of beverages, and, of course, weighs a lot less than a huge ice chest filled with melting water. "I'm just happy that we had another satisfied customer with a beautiful product on the market."