CLAIMS:

1. An additive for oil well cement containing a polyvinyl alcohol having a saponification value of 75 to 85 mol % and a viscosity-average polymerization degree of 2,800 to 4,500.

2. The additive for oil well cement according to Claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol contains particles having a particle diameter of 75 μm or less in an amount of 30 mass % or less and those having a particle diameter of 500 μm or more in an amount of 10 mass % or less.