

Soap Making

Melt & Pour Soap Making

See Resource File 1-History of Soap Making for information on how soap manufacturing has changed over time.



Melt & Pour Soap Procedure –

1. Begin with soap base from a craft store. There are generally several kinds of soap base in a craft store's selection. Choose a glycerin soap base.
2. Slice or cut the amount of soap you will need for the number of students in your class. Chop it into cubes and melt in a microwave safe bowl or in a stovetop range. For a full class size, use a crock pot.
 - a. For melting soap in the microwave, heat at first for 45 seconds then stir. Continue to melt the soap in 15 second intervals between stirring until soap base is fully melted.
 - b. For crock pot and stove top melting, be sure to stir soap regularly as it melts.
 - c. Keep an eye on the mixture. You don't want it to boil over or become frothy. Just like food, you can burn your soap. (Burnt soap base will look a brownish-yellow burnt color.)
3. After fully melting your soap base, add in any other liquid additive you might want to use. Stir.
4. Pour the soap into the mold.
 - a. Should you choose to include solid additives like decorative flowers, you may want to let the soap gel for a bit so that the additives don't sink to the bottom of your mold.
5. Lightly spray the filled mold with rubbing alcohol. This will eliminate bubbles that form on the surface of your soap.
6. Allow the soap to harden.
7. Remove soap from the mold. If your soap doesn't easily remove from the mold, it may need to cool longer.
8. Wrap soap in plastic wrap to cool and for transport.

Materials Needed

- Clear melt and pour glycerin soap base
- Pigment powder colorant dye
- Optional: fragrance or essential oils
- Silicone molds
- 2 large crock pots
- Glass or hard plastic cups
- Popsicle sticks
- Ladle
- Bags & plastic wrap to take home soap
- Small spray bottles
- 70% rubbing alcohol
- Markers (to mark molds)
- Tablecloths