Wicks & Wax

Candle and Soap Making Supplies

Container Candle Instructions



Materials:

- **Wax** Paraffin – has great scent throw and colour potential
  Beeswax – not recommended for additional scent due to its own unique properties
  Soy – difficult to achieve very dark colours
  Other waxes such as Palm and Gel – please ask for advice as they all have different properties
- **Polybar** For Paraffin only (2%)
- **Mold release** Not necessary for container candles
- **Wick** Dependent on type of wax used and candle diameter – please ask us for advice
- **Container** Must be heat safe! Mason jars, vases, pottery – the sky's the limit! Just make sure that the mouth of the container doesn't narrow too much as this could cause soot build up and even cracking. It should also be wide enough to provide enough oxygen to the flame, and have a stable base
- **Fragrance** Candle fragrance – specially formulated to release scent when heated (Paraffin 2 – 5%, Soy 6 – 8%)
  Essential oils – can be used to scent candles, but may not burn ideally due to different extraction methods
- **Dye** Specially formulated candle dye is always preferable. Add slowly as they are concentrated
  Crayons contain pigments which clog the wick and can cause the candle to go out
- **Double boiling system** – place metal or heat-safe glass container in water bath. Raise on chopsticks, trivet or piece of wire coat hanger to ensure water flow
- **Thermometer** Used to avoid reaching wax flash point, and to ensure correct pouring temperature
- **Cookie tray** Use to catch drips and spills
- **Chopsticks** Use to centre wick. Secure together with elastic bands

Precautions:

- Always stand a burning candle on a safe heat-resistant surface, never leave unattended or within reach of children
- Keep wax, dyes and scents from children - do not ingest
- Read directions and safety precautions carefully before making candles
- Never pour liquid wax into sinks and drains
- When pouring a candle, remember to leave room for the wick below the rim of the container. Especially important if there is a lid!
- Wax used in candle making is flammable, and precautions should be taken to avoid accidents:
  1. Wax should be melted using a double boiler system. Wax should NEVER be heated directly over a heat source as it can cause the wax to reach flash point and result in serious injury
  2. Use of a thermometer is a must to insure proper pouring temperature
  3. Never leave hot wax unattended
  4. When mixing any additives into wax, do so slowly and carefully
  5. Never pour water on a wax fire. To put out a wax fire cover with a lid or use a dry chemical fire extinguisher

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Method:

1. Melt wax using a Double Boiler method (a large tin can, such as a coffee can placed in a pot of water works well). Never melt wax on direct heat as it heats too quickly and can reach its flash point quickly (catches fire). Always use a thermometer to regulate the temperature of your wax (a candy or meat thermometer works well). Only melt as much wax as is needed as it can deteriorate from being repeatedly re-melted

2. When the wax has reached the proper pouring temperature (see recommended pouring temperatures below), add any necessary additives and mix thoroughly.

3. To centre the wick: Take sure that the wick is centered on the base and the top of the candle, we recommend using chopsticks secured together with elastic (see middle image) to centre the wick. Position the wick between the chopsticks, and have it slightly elevated from the base of the container. Pour 1cm of wax into the container and allow to fully harden. We do not recommend using a glue gun to secure the wick tab to the container

4. If scent is desired, add it just before pouring the rest of the wax into your container, as it is heat released and will lose its fragrance if added too soon. Be sure to use only oil based scents and mix into the wax thoroughly. Note: if you do not add scent to your initial wick centering layer of wax, it might be a slightly different colour to the rest of the candle as some scents have their own colour

5. Your containers should be placed on an even, heat safe surface. Use a pouring pot to scoop the wax from your double boiler and gently pour it into your containers, filling them to the desired level (remember to leave room for the wick!). Use cookie trays or wax paper to catch drips and spills

6. Allow the candle to cool completely. Wax expands when heated and contracts when cooling, so your candle may have a slight dip on top. Larger candles may even have a hidden cavity beneath the dip – use a knitting needle to poke through to this second layer, then top up your candle with the remaining wax to make a flat top layer. We recommend pouring the final layers about 5 °F hotter so that they bond with the previous layer

7. Allow wax to cool and set. Trim wick to 3/8” to ensure optimal burn

WAX Temperature Recommendations:

- Paraffin wax pour at 180°F – 200°F
- Beeswax pour at 180°F
- Soy wax pour at 110°F - 155°F
- Palm wax pour at 150°F - 160°F
- Gel wax pour at 170°F - 210°F

Pouring temperature will affect the finish to your candle and can be adjusted to provide different results. Warming the containers prior to pouring is usually recommended in order to improve adhesion between the wax and container