



HOME HOBBIES AWARD



PROJECT: SOAP MAKING

GOALS

A. SOAP PREP: Gather supplies for soap making project.

B. SOAP CHALLENGE: Successfully make one batch of soap.

A. SOAP PREP

Soap base and molds

- Obtain a clear or opaque, “melt and pour” glycerin (soap base)—usually found at hobby stores. Determine how much you need: one pound of base makes 3-6 bars (depending on your mold’s size).
- Pick a mold. You can use candy molds, rubber molds, ice cube trays, microwave safe plastic containers, popsicle molds, etc. Avoid using glass or metal—it is tough to remove the soap!

Heat source

- Stove:* To melt over the stove, you will need a large pan, water, and a glass measuring cup.
- Microwave:* You can melt your soap in the microwave using a glass measuring cup.

Tools and Supplies:

- Buy fragrance oil (usually right next to soap bases at the craft store). Alternatively use perfume or shampoo to scent. Add sparingly.
- Get color dye (not food coloring or candle coloring).
- Fill a small spray bottle with rubbing alcohol. It prevents bubbles from forming and helps the layers of soap stick together as you pour. (Optional)
- Other supplies: petroleum jelly or vegetable oil, wax paper, sharp knife, cutting board, toothpicks, eye dropper, large craft stick or metal spoon.

B. SOAP CHALLENGE

Prepare:

Gather your supplies in one place before you start.

- Plan Recipe:* Estimate how much soap to melt based on your molds. It’s always better to melt more than less! To estimate, fill the molds with water and then pour into a measuring cup.
- Cut Soap:* Cut the glycerine into 1/2-inch cubes with your knife and cutting board. Put the cubes into the glass measuring cup.
- Prepare Molds:* Apply either petroleum jelly or cooking spray lightly to the molds.

Melt the Soap:

- Be careful, as hot soap is not something you want to get on yourself. Place the glass measuring cup in boiled water to melt, or place in the microwave.
- For the stove, bring water to a boil, then turn down the heat to medium low. Add the glass measuring cup with the soap. Allow the soap to melt for several minutes. Stir occasionally.
- For the microwave, use high power for 30 seconds for small batches. Take out with an oven mitt and stir. Keep going in 10 second intervals, stirring then microwaving, until melted. Do not boil!



Customize:

- Add color dye one drop at a time if you are coloring. Stir.
- Wait until the soap cools a little bit then add scent (fragrance can lose its scent if poured in very hot substances).
- Other items: pearlescent powder for glitter, cosmetic grade glitter, dried fruit, dried flower petals, or herbs.

Pouring and Cooling:

- Pour into Mold:* Use an oven mitt and carefully pour the melted glycerine into molds. If using rubbing alcohol, spray on the top of your soap in the molds to remove the few bubbles that appear.
- Harden and Cool:* Allow your soap to cool on your counter. This may take 20 minutes to an hour or more depending on how large your soap mold is. Test gently with your finger to see if the soap is ready.
- Remove:* Turn the mold upside down and press gently on the bottom over a cutting board. If the soap doesn't pop out right away, let it cool more.
- Package:* Handle the soap sparingly to avoid fingerprints, and wrap in clear plastic wrap or a cellophane bag. If you don't wrap your soap, it will become slimy as glycerin attracts moisture.

Cleanup

- Hand wash all of your tools before you put them in the dishwasher. You don't want a large amount of soap on your dishes that will clog up your washer!

RESEARCH MORE

- "Lark Kids Crafts: Soapmaking" by Joe Rhatigan
- Cool Melt & Pour Soap by Lisa Wagner
- Search online for "Melt and Pour Soap Recipes" or "Fruit and Herb Soap Recipes"

My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—Soap Making.

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Complete SIX projects to earn your HOBBIES award)