

MAKING CANDLES, CREAMS, & BALMS WITH BEESWAX

NOTE: When working with hot, melting beeswax never leave it unattended. Beeswax' flashpoint is 490 – 525 degrees Fahrenheit (F). The melting point of beeswax is 143 – 151 degrees F. Ideal pouring temperature of wax is 150 – 170 degrees F.

CANDLE MAKING – ITEMS NEEDED:

- Beeswax;
- Hot plate; do not melt beeswax over an open flame!
- Fire extinguisher (you may never use it but better safe than sorry!);
- Double boiler components – sauce pan for boiling water & pouring pitcher for melting wax;
- Wick & wicking needle;
- Bobby pins or popsicle stick for centering wick;
- Mold(s);
- Digital Scale;
- Wax thermometer;
- Chop sticks or similar item for stirring;
- Mold Release;

MOLDS – Candle molds may be purchased (Mann-Lake & Brushy Mtn. Bee Farm are good sources; I prefer the rubber like polyurethane or silicone molds over the plastic molds) or they may be made from household items. Container candles can be made from items like small jars or coffee cups.

WICKS – It is important to have the right size wick for the candle or it will not burn efficiently.

Mann-Lake Wick Guide:

60 Ply Wicking: >3" diameter candle

2/0 Wicking: 1" – 3" diameter candle

4/0 Wicking: <1" diameter candle

Ready-made wicks with a wick holder tab can be purchased for container candles or tea light candles.

CANDLE POURING – INSTRUCTIONS FROM 2016 MANN-LAKE CATALOG

Lightly spray mold with Mold Release (repeat after 3-4 uses of mold). Use a wicking needle to thread wick through bottom of mold. Pull the wick so that it's about 6" longer than top of mold. Leave the wick at bottom of the mold long so when you remove candle, the mold re-wicks itself. If your mold has a cut in the side make sure the seams are aligned properly so there will be no need for seam repair. Secure the seams in place with a rubber band.

Secure the wick over the mold. Bobby pins or popsicle sticks work well for this purpose. The wick should be centered & straight but not too tight. A wick too tight or too loose will effect the way the candle burns. Pour melted wax into the mold **SLOWLY**. This prevents air bubbles from forming. The slower the candle cools the better it will turn out. When candle is completely cooled remove it from mold & trim wick at top & bottom of candle. The mold is now wicked & ready for next pouring. If the bottom of the candle is uneven, heat a metal pie tin to gently warm bottom of candle to flatten it out so the candle sits level.

WAX ORNAMENTS - Beautiful wax ornaments can be made with ceramic cookie molds. Discontinued Brown Bag cookie molds in beautiful patterns can be found on Ebay. When making a beeswax ornament spray the mold with Mold Release. Pour the melted wax into the mold **slowly**. Before the wax completely hardens insert a small piece of wooden skewer into the top of ornament for a hole. When

the ornament has completely cooled, remove from mold. Gently work skewer through the wax ornament. Thread a narrow ribbon through the hole for an ornament hanger.

CREAMS & BALMS –

Nutrient rich skin creams & lip balms can be made with recipes that include beeswax.

- Hot plate; do not melt beeswax over an open flame!
- Fire extinguisher (you may never use it but better safe than sorry!);
- Double boiler components - sauce pan for boiling water & glass measuring cup for melting ingredients;
- Digital Scale;
- Wax thermometer;
- Chop sticks or similar item for stirring;
- Containers (small jars & pots with lids, lip balm tubes;
- Plastic coated freezer paper for covering work surface-makes for easy clean-up;

There are many recipes for skin care creams & lip balms including beeswax that can be found in books & on the internet. Here's my favorite hand cream recipe:

4 oz. beeswax

4 oz. cocoa butter

6 oz. coconut oil

5 oz. sweet almond oil

¼ tsp. mango fragrance (optional); use your favorite essential oil or add no fragrance at all.

Melt beeswax, cocoa butter, & coconut oil in specified order. Beeswax takes longer to melt than cocoa butter & cocoa butter takes longer to melt than coconut oil. Sweet almond oil is liquid. Mix sweet almond oil in after all other ingredients are melted. Add fragrance last & mix well. Your mixture will be entirely liquid. Working quickly, pour liquid into prepared jars. This recipe will fill one (1) dozen 2 oz. jars. Cover filled jars with clean paper towel. When cream has hardened, put on lids.

Jar Preparation: I wash jars & lids in hot soapy water & rinse in a 5% bleach solution that is made by adding one (1) tablespoon unscented chlorine bleach to one (1) gallon hot water. I then thoroughly dry the jars & lids before filling with melted ingredients.

Here's my favorite lip balm recipe:

2 Tablespoons coconut oil

1 Tablespoon grated beeswax

2 vitamin E gel capsules

Melt beeswax first & add coconut oil. Cut vitamin E capsules & add oil to liquid beeswax & coconut oil. Discard capsule when empty. Stir well to blend ingredients. Pour liquid into prepared lip balm tubes or small lip balm pots. I use the same preparation specified above for my hand cream jars.

SpecialtyBottle.com – Good source for small jars for creams & balms.

LorAnn Oils – Good source for essential oils & food grade oils.