

# EMBOSSED STAMP SOAPS



**If this is the first time you are making soap, read next page below to learn the basics of melting. To make a layered bar (like the one wrapped in blue paper above) scroll down below for technique instructions.**

## Prepare Base

Melt 5 cubes of white soap, color and fragrance according to basic melting instructions. To give you an idea, for the green we used 12 drops of yellow and 4 drops of blue and 8 drops of Vanilla fragrance.

## Prepare Stamp

First, you will need to secure your rubber stamp to the bottom of the mold before pouring. Using a spoon just take a very small amount of melted soap and place just a drop or two into the center of the mold. Place your rubber stamp, smooth side down over the drop of soap and center within the frame of the molds. Press firmly so the soap acts almost like glue keeping the stamp in place. Try to press down on all sides of the stamp so it stays secure and reduces the risk of soap getting under the stamp when poured.

**Up for a new, innovative technique? These embossed stamp soaps really look gorgeous when they are done!**

## Life of the Party Supplies:

- 8 pack rubber stamps (we used square)
- 3 pack mold cavities designed to fit stamp (we used square)
- Any white 2lb base soap (we used shea butter base)
- 3 pack colors (we used red, yellow, blue)
- Fragrance or Essential Oil blend of your choice (we used Vanilla)

## Around the House/Other Items:

- Measuring cups
- Spoons for stirring
- Paring Knife
- Plastic wrap, wrapping/scrapbook paper, ribbon, glue for decorating

## Pouring and Cooling

Slowly pour the melted soap right over the stamp until the cavity is full. Let it set about 30 minutes or until it is completely cool to the touch. When ready, release by applying constant, even pressure with thumbs to the backside of the mold. You may need to gently pull side of mold away from the soap bar to break air seal and apply, even pressure to back.

## Removing Stamp

You may have a little excess soap on your mold that snuck in between the mold and stamp which you can pull off a little bit before trimming. Take a small knife and using the tip, very carefully pry the stamp up from one corner and start to remove. Start out very shallow with your knife, you don't want to "ding" your soap. Once you get it started just peel away and the stamp and save it.

## Finish

To preserve the freshness of the bar, wrap soaps in plastic wrap, pulling it tight and snug, in the back of the soap bar. Use scissors to remove excess plastic wrap. For gifts, try decorating with strips of decorative scrapbook or wrapping paper or just ribbon so your design can be admired!

## Basic Melting

### Prepare

Depending on your project, decide how much clear and/or white soap you will need. Most of our molds are between 3-4 ounces. Each cube in a two pound tray is roughly 1 ounce. Cut desired amount of soap brick into cubes, and place into a microwave-safe measuring cup.

Have your fragrance, color and mold ready at hand. You will want your mold cavity side up. Depending on the mold you choose, you may need to put a spoon or even grab some caps off a few soda bottles to help steady the mold. This way when you pour the soap in later it won't run all over...which brings up another point, feel free to cover your work area with brown paper bags or paper towels. It is soap and cleans up with water but still, less mess is best.

### Around the House Items:

Microwave  
Cutting Board  
Glass Measuring Cups  
Kitchen Knife  
Spoon for stirring and propping  
Plastic wrap  
Scissors  
(Optional Rubbing alcohol in a spray bottle)

### Microwave

You're ready to microwave. Soap melts at a pretty low temperature and once it starts it goes quick! It can get really hot so please, please be careful. Place the microwave-safe measuring cup into microwave and heat for 30 seconds, remove and stir to break up the bigger blobs. Repeat this now in 10 and then 5 second intervals until soap is completely melted. Keep an eye on it, if it starts to bubble up, its too hot. If this happens, turn off the microwave, let it cool, (the cup should be warm, not burning hot to the touch) remove, stir, and place back in microwave if necessary to finish the melting process.

### Color & Fragrance

Add fragrance/color soap as indicated in instructions or project sheet. We use about 6 drops of fragrance per ounce of soap but we are fragrance divas here. Colors not so much. A little goes a long way so start with one or two drops and add from there. Remember you can always mix and match colors for all kinds of shades.

### Pour & Remove

Take your melted soap and slowly pour it into a mold cavity. You want to fill it all the way to the "top" this will help you when you de-mold the soap. If you want really pretty soap, you can spritz it with alcohol to remove the bubbles. Let it cool, and be patient. It can take over an hour to dry. If its warm to the touch, its not ready. Once it's cool, flip the mold over and start to apply constant, even pressure with thumbs to the backside of the mold. You may need to gently pull one side of mold away from the soap bar to break air seal. It takes a little practice, but you'll get the hang of it. After you admire your work, go ahead and wrap it tightly in plastic wrap to keep the moisture in until you are ready to use it or gift it!



## Tips, Tricks, Technique

-Use rubbing alcohol to remove air bubbles, adhere layers to one another and to spray objects you want to embed in the soap to prevent air pockets. The alcohol evaporates from the heat of the soap so there is little residue.

-You can re-melt soap, so save mistakes, scraps and extras. Just be mindful of the fragrances and start at 5-10 second intervals when re-melting.

-Do not move molds until soap has begun to set or you can create wrinkles in your soap. If this happens, try to remove them by spraying rubbing alcohol over the wrinkle.

-When layering colors, allow a layer of skin to form on the poured soap to prevent layered colors from bleeding into each other. Test the layer with the tip of your finger by gently touching the soap - it should not wiggle, should not be hot and should feel slightly firm to completely firm.

-Soap can take anywhere from 30-90 minutes to harden so don't rush it. If it is still warm to the touch it should not be un-molded yet. It also sets up quicker when you put it in the refrigerator once it solidifies.

**HAVE FUN AND EXPERIMENT ON YOUR OWN!**

# Layered Soap Bars

## Life of the Party Supplies:

Clear 2lb soap  
White 2lb soap  
Fragrance  
3 pack color  
Mold (we used M171)

## Around the House Items:

Microwave  
Cutting Board  
Glass Measuring Cups  
Kitchen Knife  
Spoon for stirring and propping  
Plastic wrap  
Scissors  
Rubbing alcohol in a spray bottle

**A great technique, you'll use over and over, layering is easy way to make unique colored bars. Before you get started, first determine how many layers of color you want to create, and if you want to use clear soap, white soap or both in your finished bar.**

Read all the instructions first then grab your supplies. Ready?

If you are using the M171 mold like we did, you will need a **total** of approximately 4 ounces of soap. We cut about 4 cubes of white and 2 cube of clear just to be on the safe side. (Remember you can always re-melt and reuse excess soap).

Let's start with the white soap. Melt your white soap according to package instructions or see the next page for step by step melting instructions. Since you are only melting 4 cubes, try 20 second microwave interval so you don't overheat the soap.

Once the soap is melted, remove from microwave and add a few drops of fragrance. Start out with 8-10 drops, stir and see if you want more. Probably shouldn't exceed 25 drops for 4 cubes.

Add liquid colorant and stir. We used about 6 drops but you can use more or less depending on what color your going for.

Time for layering! Pour your first soap layer into the mold, filling it approximately 1/3 full. If you see bubbles, no worries, just spritz with alcohol and the bubbles will disappear.

Let this layer cool approximately 20 minutes or until soap develops a firm "skin". Your almost ready for your second layer. To help layers stick together, spray this cooled layer lightly with rubbing alcohol before pouring the second layer.

Prepare your second layer. Melt, fragrance and color the 2 cubes of clear soap as you did the white. Color goes a long way with the clear soap so you will only need a drop or two.

Pour this second layer so that the mold is two thirds full and let set as you did the first layer. Don't forget to spritz if you see bubbles. Let it cool just like you did before until it forms a "skin".

Last layer! Take the remaining colored white soap and re-melt. It will melt really quick so keep an eye on it in the microwave. Spray a little alcohol on this cooled layer and then slowly pour your soap, filling the mold complete.

The bar still needs to cool some more. Let it set about another 30 minutes or until it is completely cool to the touch. When ready, release by applying constant, even pressure with thumbs to the backside of the mold. You may need to gently pull side of mold away from the soap bar to break air seal and apply, even pressure to back.

To preserve the freshness of the bar, wrap soaps in plastic wrap, pulling it tight and snug, in the back of the soap bar. Use scissors to remove excess plastic wrap. For gifts, try decorating with strips of decorative scrapbook paper and ribbons.

