

SPOOKY CUTOUT SOAPS



Add soap to your Halloween decorating tradition! Makes a great goody bag idea for parties too.

If you haven't already done so, please familiarize yourself with basic melting (see below). As with all soap projects, this one requires using a microwave and knife. If children are present please be careful.

Preparing the Cutouts

You are going to make two bars at a time. First decide if you will make transparent pieces (like the bats) or opaque pieces (like the ghosts). We're going to do the bats and cats. Melt 4 cubes of clear soap. Add equal drops of red blue and yellow color and stir until you get a dark black (we used 5 drops of each). Next add 8-10 drops of fragrance and stir.

Pour this black soap into your ceramic bowl and let it cool for about an hour. When it is cool to the touch you can begin to remove it. Carefully and gently slide a knife under one of the sides of the soap in the bowl and lift up. Once you have it started, put the knife down and gently pull the soap out with your hand and place it on a cutting board.

Pick two cutters. Press the cutter into the center of

Life of the Party Supplies:

White 2lb soap
Clear 2lb soap
Basic mold (We used M154)
3 pack colors, red, yellow, blue

Around the House/Other Items:
Halloween small cookie cutters
Microwave
Ceramic bowl
Spray bottle of alcohol (helps keep layers together)
Glass measuring cups
Spoon for stirring
Kitchen Knife for cutting soap
Small Knife for trimming
Scissors and plastic wrap for freshness

the soap where it is deepest and remove. Remember we are making two bars of soap so make 3 or 4 cut out pieces. Save the unused soap for the back layer later.

Pouring and Layering

Arrange your cutouts into two mold cavities, making a spooky scene. Press real firmly. You'll want the cutout to have as much contact as possible with the mold. This way soap doesn't get under it when you pour the next layer.

Prepare your next layer of melted soap. You will need about 4 cubes with 8-10 drops of fragrance. Add color if you would like (for the orange we used 20 drops of yellow and 3 drops of red in white soap). Take the melted soap, make sure it is just lukewarm (if its too hot it will melt your cutouts) and pour over the cutout pieces until each cavity is 3/4 full. Allow to cool.

Remember the soap you had left over from the bowl? Go ahead and re-melt it. Spritz alcohol on the cooled layers in the mold. Now take the melted soap and fill these two cavities. Allow to cool completely and remove from mold. (our basic melting page below has some tips on un-molding)

Trimming and Finishing Up

If some soap got under your cutout you can use a small knife to carefully and slowly trim the excess. Wrap the soap in plastic wrap or put it right in your powder room for little goblins to use!

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!