

Life of the Party Supplies:

White 2lb Soap (not suspending kind)
Fragrance
3 Pack colors
Mold (we used M213)

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)



Channel your retro self! These tie dye soaps are easy and fun to make. No two are exactly the same.

Read all the instructions first then grab your supplies, put on some Joplin (yeah I know we're dating ourselves here) and get creative!

If you are using the M213 mold like we did, you will need about 5 cubes of soap. (Remember you can always re-melt and reuse excess soap).

First prepare your mold. Select a liquid color of your choice. You can use 1 color or if you really want to get creative you can use a couple different colors. Randomly place drops of color directly into the mold (not too close together). You need to use at least 5-6 drops in total.

Onto the soap. Melt soap according to package instructions, or click here or the Soap 101 link (top right) for step-by-step melting instructions. Since you are only melting 5 cubes try 20 second intervals in the microwave so you don't overheat the soap.

Once the soap is melted, remove from the microwave and add a few drops of fragrance. Start out with 8-10 drops, stir and see if you want more. Probably shouldn't go over 25 drops for 5 cubes.

Now comes the fun part. Start to pour your soap into the mold, over the drops. Try to hit every drop to get the color moving. Go slow and steady until the mold is full.

Here are a few things you can try:

-If you think you didn't have enough drops in the mold, you can add a drop or two while you are pouring.

-We listed an optional spray bottle of rubbing alcohol. If you have one, and can do two things at once, try spritzing once or twice as you pour, it can give you cool swirl effects.

-When you are done filling the mold (before the soap is dry), you can take the straight end of a spoon, place it into the soap, touching the bottom, and use it to swirl the color a little.

The soap needs to cool now. It will probably take about 30-40 minutes. It should be cool to the touch before you try to remove it from the mold. Once it has completely cooled, release the soap by applying 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 the air seal and apply, even pressure to back.

To keep it fresh until you're ready to use or gift it, wrap the soap in plastic wrap, pulling it tight and snug, in the back of the soap bar. Use scissors to remove excess plastic wrap. You can decorate with strips of scrapbook paper and ribbon.

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.

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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!