

VALENTINE HEART SOAPS

Congratulations to our first contest winner! This project won our first FREE 10 POUNDS of soap! You can win too, visit our facebook page www.facebook.com/soapplace and click on the Project Contest Tab!



Life of the Party Supplies:

2 lb package of white soap
 3 pack colors (we used red, yellow, blue)
 V154 Five Heart Mold
 Fragrance of your choice (we used Rose)

Around the House/Other Items:

Microwave
 Microwave safe measuring cups
 Spray bottle of alcohol
 Cutting board, large Kitchen Knife,
 spoons for stirring
 Paring Knife for trimming
 Plastic wrap



Please read through all instructions before starting. If this is the first time you are making soap see below to learn the basics of soap making.

Prepare Smaller Heart Insert

Melt 2 cubes of white soap, this will melt very quickly so put only a few seconds at a time on the microwave. Add fragrance (we used 4 drops) and color if you would like (we chose a white insert, if you do color your insert go easy on the color. Since you are only melting 2 cubes of soap you won't need a lot of color). Pour into mold and let set for about 25 minutes. Remove from mold. You may put your insert into the freezer for 5 or 10 minutes. This will harden it up a bit and also help it from melting when you pour the next step.

Hug the Little Heart with a Big Heart!

If you placed your heart insert in the freezer take it out now. Place your heart insert, face down, in the middle of the large heart cavity and press firmly, making sure the front of the insert makes contact with the mold. (This will help prevent melted soap from seeping under the insert and decrease the trimming you will do later).

Melt 3 cubes of white soap, again short microwave intervals, add fragrance (we used 10 drops) and color (we used only 1 drop of red). Spritz the insert in the mold with alcohol. You are going to pour the melted soap over the insert, but before you do, make sure it is not hot or it will melt the insert. Pour the melted soap over the insert until the cavity is full. Depending on how you cut the cubes you may have a little extra. Try not to over pour the cavity. If you do you can trim it later. (Also, if you have extra soap add a cube or cube and a half and make another little heart!) Let it sit for 25 minutes and then remove from mold.

When you remove the big heart bar, you may notice some soap seeped under the insert. Carefully trim away the excess with a small paring knife. Go slowly and very gently to trim away the excess soap.

Be My Valentine!

Wrap your bars in plastic wrap (to preserve freshness) and give it to your Valentine! Try making a few big an little bars for cute sugar free gifts!

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!