

How to...

FREE
information

Make Candles

Introduction

Candlemaking is a straightforward and creative pursuit requiring only basic materials and a little imagination. HobbyCraft supplies all of the basic candlemaking materials.

Equipment needed

Wax – Premium, glass fill, gel, tacky, beeswax, creme

Stearin – acts as a hardener for low melt point waxes and lowers the melt point of higher temperature wax

Moulds – plastic and metal

Wick – various sizes

Colour – available in many intermixable shades

Fragrances

Method

There are five basic steps as follows:

Mould Preparation

Select the mould from the wide range available and ensure that the inside is spotlessly clean. If using a mould with a wick aperture make a small cut to pass the wick through.

Select the appropriate size of wick – the thickest for large moulds and the thinnest for the small moulds. Cut a length of wick at least 2” longer than the length of the mould. Thread the wick through the hole in the mould and tie a secure knot in the wick on the outside of the mould. Pull the knotted end of the wick about 1/2” further out of the candle mould (this will form the wick end that you will ignite).

Push some mould sealer or ‘Blu-Tack’ around the hole on the outside of the mould to prevent wax escaping. The main bulk of the wick should now be trailing through the end of the mould. At the open end of the mould secure the end of the wick to a wick rod (a cocktail stick will often do) and lay the rod across the end of the mould.

The wick should run centrally along the length of the mould and should be firm but not stretched.



Wax Melting and Preparation

'Paraffin wax' melts at well below the boiling point of water. If you do not have a specialist wax pot you will need two old saucepans – one of which must fit inside the other.

Warm water and a trivet should be placed under the larger pan. Place the wax in the smaller pan – about 500g is a useful working quantity. Place the smaller pan inside the larger one and put on a low heat source.

Do not leave the wax once you have commenced heating and continually check the water level in the larger pan.

When the wax has become molten, add stearin to improve the burning quality of the candle.

1 part stearin to 10 parts wax.

Should wax catch fire while heating, turn off heat and cover the fire with a cloth.

NEVER use water to put out the fire.

NEVER heat wax beyond 90° centigrade.

Colouring and Fragrancing

Add a colour dye a little at a time by shaving strips off the slab – as a guide, 25% of one of the dye slabs will brightly colour 500g of wax/stearin mixture. Next add fragrance – 2.5ml is sufficient for 500g of wax/stearin. Candle scenting mediums are available in block or liquid form. Pot-pourri oil or essential oils may also be used. Stir the mixture, then remove from the heat source. Your mixture should never boil or bubble.

Pouring

Warm the mould slightly. It is easier to pour wax into a lipped jug and then pour into the mould. If possible, tilt the mould slightly whilst pouring. This will help to prevent air bubbles forming. Pour the wax into the mould so that it almost touches the wick rod.

Demoulding and Finishing

As the wax cools it will contract slightly leaving a 'well area' around the base. This can be filled by topping up with hot wax from the jug.

Once 'set', remove the mould sealer and cut the knot from the wick as close to the knot as possible. Remove the wick rod from the open end. Extract the candle from the mould – if the candle does not simply come out, try placing the mould in the refrigerator for 15 minutes, or run hot water over the outside of the mould for a few seconds.

When the candle is free from the mould, cut the wick to the length required. Level the bottom of the candle by rubbing around the inside of an empty warm saucepan, and remove any seam lines with a sharp knife. Allow your candle to set for at least 24 hours before igniting.

Hints and tips

- Why not try making a candle with different coloured layers? Simply allow each colour about 45 minutes to 'gel' before pouring the next colour layer.
- You can gauge the amount of molten wax/stearin a mould will use by measuring water into the mould.
- As a rough guide: 1kg wax = 4 pints
- Candles always finish a darker colour than the molten wax.

Candle safety

Applies to:

Candles
Oil candles
Candle lamps
Floating candles
Room scenters & holders
Tealights/nightlights
Gel candles
and other candle-related products

Safety First

Whichever products you choose, we'd like to ensure you enjoy them safely. This leaflet contains all the relevant safety information. Please read it carefully before use. Always check the labels and warnings with the candle and candle holder – use a suitable non-flammable holder. Remove all packaging and labels and ensure the candle is secure in the holder before lighting.

Look after your candle

- Keep the wick trimmed to 1cm (1/3") to avoid excessive smoking.
- Keep the area around the wick clear of match ends and debris (e.g. accumulated lacquer or decorative finishes) as these can represent a fire hazard.
- Never burn your candle right down to the base.
- Do not allow the flame to contact the holder or any decorative candle rings as this can damage the holder.

Choose a suitable site for your candle product

Site your candle so that there is plenty of space above and around it, away from flammable materials (e.g. curtains), and a good distance from walls and ceilings to prevent any damage by smoke.

- The area should be free from draughts.
- The candle must be kept out of reach of children and pets.
- Always use a heat resistant surface (e.g. rigid table mat) to place the candle holder on. Never burn on a television or near other sources of heat.
- Never place holders directly on a polished surface.
- Choose a flat and stable surface for your candle holder.
- Never touch or attempt to move a candle once it is lit.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.

Extinguish the candle with care

- Avoid blowing out the candle as this can cause dangerous wax spillage.
- Never extinguish your candle with water.
- Use a candle snuffer or an upturned metal spoon, being careful not to damage the wick.
- Allow the candle to cool after extinguishing and before moving.
- Ensure all candles and related products (e.g. incense sticks, tealights) are extinguished on leaving the room.

Oil Candles

We recommend only the lamp oil sold in HobbyCraft. This fuel is suitable for decorative oil lamps and should not be used with any other fuel. Never use methylated spirit, petrol, white spirit or paraffin. Remove the wick and carefully fill your candle no more than two thirds full, preferably using a funnel. This should be carried out over a bowl in case of spillage. Adjust the wick to a maximum length of 1mm prior to lighting the candle. Allow the wick to soak in the oil for approximately 10 minutes before first use. Ensure the candle is placed on a flat, stable surface before lighting.

Never touch or attempt to move the candle once it is lit. Allow to cool after extinguishing.

Check the candle regularly for signs of damage. Do not use if there are any cracks or chips in the glass.



Candle Lamps

Use only refill candles recommended for use in candle lamps. Do not burn without adequate overhead clearance. Keep out of the reach of children and pets. Keep away from draughts and flammable materials.

Floater Bowl, Candles and Pebbles

Place glass pebbles in the bowl and fill three quarters full with warm tap water. Ensure the decorative glass pebbles are positioned out of the reach of children as they may represent a choking hazard. They are not suitable as a child's play item.

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