

# MELT & POUR SOAP

## *Glycerin Soap*

**Notes:** Glycerin soap will melt like butter over low heat. Stir constantly while soap is mixing and remove from heat the moment the soap has liquified.

**Important:** Do not let soap heat up over 70 degrees celsius.

The safest way to melt glycerin soap is in a bowl placed over a saucepan with water on a rolling boil. The soap melts like butter; you do not need a high heat to achieve melting. Leave the heat under the water until half the soap has melted, then turn off the heat and allow the rest of the soap to melt.

With the transparent glycerin soap, if you continue to heat the water, the soap will overheat and the transparency will be lost.

### **Additives**

Once the soap has melted, you can add food colourings, skin safe pigments or mycas, fragrances, essential oils, emollients, hardeners and exfoliants to the soap. Add a small amount at a time and stir gently to blend completely.

**Caution:** Excess emollients, hardeners or exfoliants can lower the lathering qualities of the soap; if you are using essential oils, be aware that some of these are toxic; research any essential oils completely before using on the skin.

### **Mold**

When you are satisfied with your soap, gently pour it into a mold. You can use jelly molds to form your soaps, or candy molds to create miniture guest soaps. A clean milk carton is great for making square soaps, or use a clean tuna can for a round soap. It's amazing how many items round the house can be turned to good use as soap molds.

If there are bubbles on the top of your mold after pouring, they can be dispersed (Immediately after pouring, or else it will be too late) by spritzing with rubbing alcohol.

**Important:** Leave the mold on the bench to allow the surface of the soap to skin over – maybe 10-15 mins. If you are in no hurry for your soap, the mold can be left overnight to harden, then gently invert the mold and wait for the soap to slide out.

**In a Hurry –** Once the soap has formed a skin, and you can pick up the mold without spilling the soap, gently transfer the mold to the freezer. Freeze for an hour or so, then invert the mold and wait for the soap to slide out. If you have difficulty in getting the soap out of the mold, running hot water over the back of the mold for a few seconds may help.

Freezing can also help in unmolding soap that has been left to set on the benchtop. After taking soap out of a mould, wrap it immediately in cling-wrap to avoid dust & fingerprints getting onto your nice new bar of soap! This also gives you a surface to stick a label if you want to remind yourself of which Essential Oils, fragrances or other additives you may have added to the individual soap &/or batches.

Have fun!

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