

How to make Homemade Candles



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Introduction

Buying candles can be expensive. To save money, you can learn to make candles yourself. After reading this manual, you will be able to construct your own candles while being able to customize different aspects such as shape, scent, and color. The possibilities become limitless. The cost of the entire project will only cost between \$20 and \$30, depending on the different characteristics of a candle you want. We encourage you to read the safety warnings, and all the instructions before beginning the process to maintain a clean and safe environment.



Materials

Hobby Lobby, or your local craft store, should contain all the materials necessary to make a candle. I recommend you purchase the items below before you get started.

- 1 pound of candle wax of your choice
- Color dye (3 different colors)
- Mixing spoon
- Wire whisk
- Metal molds
- Wick pins
- Fragrance (3 different fragrances, ½ ounce containers)
- Food thermometer (for the wick)
- A double boiler (or saucepan and glass bowl big enough to sit over the pot)
- Paper towels
- Disposable gloves
- Rubbing Alcohol (easy way to clean up before it cools)
- Newspaper to cover workspace



Prep Instructions

Caution

Take caution when making candles. You will be dealing with hot wax and glass containers. Here is a list of reminders:

- Avoid all horseplay
- Wear heat-resistant gloves
- Be aware! (wax and fragrance are both flammable)
- Use a low to medium heat setting

Preparing Your Workspace

Please use the following steps to prepare your workplace. These prep instructions will help you prevent your workspace or surroundings from becoming damaged or dirty during the candle making process.

1. Locate the nearest fire extinguisher **BEFORE** you start anything
2. Cover your workspace with newspaper or old blankets
3. Place paper towels nearby in case of a spill
4. Gather pans and bowl for wax
5. Put on heat resistant gloves
6. Set out oven mitts for hot pans/bowls

Preparing Your Wax

Follow these instructions so your wax will be ready to pour in the double boiler.

1. Cut your wax into shavings
2. Divide the pile of shavings into 3 separate piles
3. Put each pile of shavings in its own bowl
4. Position a wick pin in the bottom center of each metal mold container



Instructions

Getting Started:

You will follow the same starting instructions for each of the three candles you make. You use the double boiler for each candle. The directions below show you how to set up your double boiler. Follow these instructions **before starting each candle**:

1. Turn on your stove to a medium-low heat setting.
2. Make your double boiler:
 - a. Fill a large pot (saucepan) about halfway with water
 - b. Place a smaller pot in the larger pot on top of the water (you will melt the wax in the smaller pot.)
3. Place the double boiler onto the stove
4. Allow the water to come to a boil

Candle 1

1. Grab 1 of your bowls of wax.
2. Pour the wax into the smaller bowl in the double boiler
3. Place a thermometer into the wax
4. Let the wax melt until it reaches a temperature of 122 to 140°F
5. Add half of the ½ ounce scent to the melted wax
6. Stir the scent using the wire whisk for about 2 minutes
7. Add 5 drops of color dye after the wax has been melted
8. Stir in the color for about 2 minutes
9. Turn off the heat
10. Carefully take the smaller bowl of wax and place it on the counter
11. Pour the wax into one of the metal molds (you may have leftover wax)
12. Let the candle sit overnight before removing the mold
13. Remove the candle from the mold after 24 hours (if you are having trouble removing the candle, set it in the refrigerator for 5 minutes and it will release right away)



Candle 2

1. Grab a second bowl of wax
2. Pour the wax into the smaller bowl in the double boiler
3. Place a thermometer into the wax
4. Let the wax melt until it reaches a temperature of 122 to 140°F
5. Add half of the ½ ounce scent to the melted wax (a different scent than in candle 1)
6. Stir the scent using the wire whisk for about 2 minutes
7. Add 5 drops of color dye after the wax has been melted (a different scent than candle 1)
8. Stir in the color for about 2 minutes
9. Turn off the heat
10. Carefully take the smaller bowl of wax and place it on the counter
11. Pour the wax into one of the metal molds (you may have leftover wax)
12. Let the candle sit overnight before removing the mold
13. Remove the candle from the mold after 24 hours (if you are having trouble removing the candle, set it in the refrigerator for 5 minutes and it will release right away)



Candle 3

1. Grab the last bowl of wax.
2. Pour the wax into the smaller bowl in the double boiler
3. Place a thermometer into the wax
4. Let the wax melt until it reaches a temperature of 122 to 140°F
5. Add half of the ½ ounce scent to the melted wax (use a new scent)
6. Stir the scent using the wire whisk for about 2 minutes

7. Add 5 drops of color dye after the wax has been melted (use a new color)
8. Stir in the color for about 2 minutes
9. Turn off the heat
10. Carefully take the smaller bowl of wax and place it on the counter
11. Pour the wax into one of the metal molds (you may have leftover wax)
12. Let the candle sit overnight before removing the mold
13. Remove the candle from the mold after 24 hours (if you are having trouble removing the candle, set it in the refrigerator for 5 minutes and it will release right away)

**WARNING:**

- The metal molds have sharp edges
- Never leave melting wax or lit candles unattended; blow them out if nobody is around to watch the candle
- Some people can be allergic to scented products
- Precautions:
 - Extinguish fires with baking soda or smother with a lid.
 - Never use water as it will cause fire to spread.
- Adult supervision should always be maintained.
- Place candle on heat resistant surface
- Keep away from flammable objects

Cleaning Up

How to clean up wax:

To clean wax off of old utensils:

1. Cover an old pan/cookie sheet with 3-4 layers of paper towels.
2. Set utensils on top of pan/cookie sheet
3. Turn oven on to “keep warm” setting (should be the lowest heat setting on your oven)
4. Place the pan/cookie sheet in the oven for about 5 minutes
5. The wax should melt off the utensils onto the paper towels.
6. Use gloves/oven mitts/leather coverings or anything that is heat resistant to lift and wipe remaining wax off the utensils.
7. Leave to dry.

To clean wax out of pan:

1. Same concept as above. When pot is hot enough (while wearing heat protectant gloves) wipe the pan with paper towels until clean
2. If this does not work: freeze the pan, then gently scrape the wax out.
3. Wipe the pan with a sponge using washing detergents or cleaning supplies for pans.

To clean wax off counter tops:

- If counter tops are scratch resistant:
 1. Use paint scraper or the equivalent and gently scrape counter tops until cleared
- If counter tops are not scratch resistant:
 1. Use a heat gun, or hair dryer to melt wax and gently rub the wax off the counter tops

To clean wax off carpet or floorings:

- Using a hair dryer/heat gun
 1. Once melted, proceed to wipe the wax out of the carpet slowly
 2. Exchange the paper towels frequently to keep the paper towels picking up the wax
- using an iron:
 1. Place a stack of 2-3 paper towels over the spot on the carpet with the wax on it.
 2. Go over the spot with the iron and the iron should pick up the wax in the paper towels without damaging the carpeting.

How to store excess materials:

- Wax:
 - Set aside a box or pan to catch excess wax pieces that you may consider keeping for another candle project.
 - Store away from heat sources, flames, and gas.
- Wicks
 - Store in plastic bags and place in area near other candle making materials (away from heat source, flames, or gas)
- Pans
 - After cleaning, store with other pots and pans.
- Utensils
 - Store in box or packaging with other candle making materials.



WARNING: Refrain from picking up the utensils out of the oven when heating/heated. Separate candle making pans/cookie sheets from the pans/cookie sheets used for food cooking. Watch the utensils carefully while in the oven, depending on the material they are made of, (they are subject to melting). If you choose to use a candle pan/cookie sheet for food materials, make sure that the pan is completely clean before usage. Pay attention to your heat gun, as they can be a fire hazard. Please take safety precautions when handling any object with a heated surface. Please keep pets, and small children away from all materials used in this project.

Troubleshooting

FAQs:

1. What degree should my wax be before I add my color and fragrance?
 - Colors: 160-170 degrees
 - Fragrance oils: After your colors around 170 degrees
2. What if my candle came out with a bunch of gunk in the bottom?
 - The problem most likely occurred during stirring.
 - Be sure you are stirring your wax for a full two minutes after you add your fragrance oil.
 - You might need to heat some fragrances, such as vanilla bases ones, before you add them to your wax.
3. What ratio should I use for fragrance oil to wax combination
 - Recommended to use about 1.5 oz. per 1lb (16 oz.) of wax.
4. What can cause the candle to keep sinking in the middle?
 - Make sure your candle completely cools down before you do your second pour.

Do's & Don'ts:

Do's

1. Use a thermometer to keep an eye on the temperature of the wax
2. Use appropriate temperature for the type of wax you have.

Don'ts

1. Never leave melting wax unattended!
2. You do not need more than 1 oz. of fragrance per lb. of wax.

