

Candle Making Made Soy Easy

Brought to you by Dancing Flames Soy Candles – www.dancingflames.net

"Soy" you would like to learn how to make candles, hey? It is my greatest pleasure to share the 'joy of soy' with you! Let's begin!

Please note, you should gather all the needed items and supplies before attempting to make your first batch of candles. Read through these instructions carefully several times so that you are familiar with the terms used.

I want to give a gentle reminder that **these instructions are only for soy candle wax**. Each type of wax requires different handling. I don't want you to get frustrated by trying to use this guide with other types of wax.

This is the Stove Top Method

Equipment needed before you start:

1. Pour Pot (Michaels has them for about \$15)
2. Double boiler or a pan for water
3. Thermometer (Walmart has candy thermometers for around \$4)
4. Stirrer (I use wooden spoons that have long handles, I get them at the Dollar Tree)
5. Small ounce measuring cup that goes to 5 ounces. (Wal-Mart has them in the kitchen aisle for about \$3)
6. 2 cup or 4 cup measuring cup (having both is best) **GLASS ONLY**
7. [Wick Target](#) - **exclusive to Dancing Flames**, print out and laminate or put in heavy page protector.
8. Scales for weighing raw wax (optional)

Supplies needed to make candles:

1. Soy wax (suppliers listed below)
2. Wicks sized to fit your container (based on diameter of your container, the larger the container, the thicker the wick needs to be in order to melt the wax to the outer edges of the container)
3. Wick Target for your convenience in getting the wick in the right spot (PDF file available)
4. Container of your choice, heavier glass is best. Don't get thin glass for candles. Heat can break thin glass.
5. Wick adhesive (Zots at Michaels are good, \$5 for 200 glue pieces, get the 3D type that are about 1/8th of an inch thick - In the glue aisle, Tacky Wax is another great one - in the candle making aisle of Michaels, or wick stickers from suppliers)
6. Caution Labels (You can make your own or buy them, your choice) - most important, put them on **ALL** candles you make!
7. Craft stick to help center your wicks
8. Fragrance (I recommend skin safe fragrances because I know they don't have any added ingredients. My purpose is to show you how to make the most healthful candles I can.) - suppliers listed below.

9. Soy, or vegetable, based coloring, very important to keep the integrity of a natural candle - suppliers listed below.
10. Paper towels for clean ups

Before You Do Anything - It is very important to gather the containers you are going to use and measure each one so you know how much liquid wax you will need in ounces. Fill each with water and then pour that water into the 2 or 4 cup measuring cup to see how much that vessel holds. Make notes of each type of container and the amount of liquid it holds so that you will know how much wax to melt. This will help you plan how much fragrance and color to use also.

I recommend washing each candle container you are going to use in HOT soapy water, rinsing it in hot water and then drying well with a lint free towel if possible. When the containers are very clean, the candle results are best. When the glass is dirty the smudges will show up after the wax as cooled.

Important Measuring Notes -

1 pound = 16 liquid ounces = 2 cups

1 cup = 8 ounces

3 teaspoons = 1 tablespoon = ½ ounce

6 teaspoons = 2 tablespoons = 1 ounce

Melting and Handling Soy Wax - Fill your double boiler to the fill line. If you don't have a double boiler, fill a large sauce pan 1/3 full with water. It's best to bring the water to a boil then set the pour pot into the water, being careful not to burn yourself. Watch the water level and fill as necessary. It will evaporate rather quickly.

The wax does not need to get extremely hot. It only needs to be liquefied. Heating to a temperature of 150° to 175° F is recommended. Do not heat the wax above 200° F. If Soy Wax is held at higher temperatures for long periods of time it will discolor and/or acquire a 'burned smell' that will negatively affect the end result of your candles. Always use a thermometer when melting the wax. You will have a better idea how hot the wax is getting. **Never leave your wax unattended when it is on the heat source.** Stir the wax often, while it's melting; this helps the wax to melt more evenly, and prevent any one part of the wax to get too hot. Just like in candy making, we don't want to burn the sugar by letting it stay in one place long, the same goes for this wax.

Adding Color - If you would like to use color, here are some helpful hints. If you use dye chips, it's best to melt them in with the wax to ensure complete melting and blending into the liquid wax. If you use liquid dye, it's best to add the drops after the wax has liquefied and taken off the heat, but while still very hot to ensure even distribution. Use the manufacturer's instructions for the coloring used. It's always best to use coloring designed especially for soy or natural waxes, or that is soy based.

Adding Fragrance - It is best to add your fragrance when the wax has cooled a bit; Between 130° and 120° F. The only reason for this is to keep all the yummy smell inside the candle. Since soy solidifies at a much lower temperature than paraffin, we add it later in order for the fragrance not to dissipate with the heat of the wax. You can add your fragrance at any time before you pour your candles though. But the hotter the wax when you add fragrance, the more chance it will have to dissipate before it solidifies into

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the wax. Make sure to stir the wax completely to ensure that the fragrance is mixed in very well. As a rule, stir for at least 1 minute for fragrance to dissolve into the wax.

The recommended fragrance load for soy wax is ½ ounce to 1 ½ ounce of fragrance per pound, or 16 ounces LIQUID measure of wax. DO not add more than 1 ½ ounce of fragrance per pound, it will make your candle smoke, or make your candle burn oddly because it can 'clog' your wick, and you may have unsightly white 'frosting' through out your candle, or a white ring will form under the burn pool of your candle after you've burned it and it has solidified. The best way to help you understand this is to think of the wax as a sponge. Once it gets over saturated, the fragrance has no place to go, and pools up where ever it can. In the case of wax and fragrance, the least we use to attain the strength of smell we want is best.

Proper Wicking of Your Containers - While the wax is melting and cooling, you will have ample time to wick your containers with the wick adhesive and the appropriate size wicks. MOST important is your wick size. It is imperative that you put the right sized wick in your container for it to have a complete burn. The larger around the container is, the thicker braiding your wick must be. Also, for soy and natural wax the wick needs to be larger than what other chemical waxes use. Yet you don't want too large of a wick either, because your candle will burn much more quickly and possibly smoke due to the large flame. This is when the wick target comes in handy. Measure the diameter of your container. Choose the proper wick for the diameter. If you don't have a large enough wick, you can use two small wicks in the middle of the container. This is very pretty and some of the exclusive candle companies do this for the added beauty. It is a good idea to buy a few different sizes of wicks so that you have the right sized wicks on hand.

Place adhesive on the bottom of the wick. I use Zots, and Tacky Wax, feel free to use the 'wick stickers' that are round and fit on the bottom of the wick too. What ever you are comfortable with is ok. Some even hot glue the wick in the bottom. The reason this is important is to ensure proper placement of the wick so it stays where it is supposed to when the wax is poured in the container.

Center your container on the wick target with the big target spot in the center of the container. Now, I have a secret to getting the wicks into the container. Use a drinking straw, cut about an inch shorter than your wick, to place your wick on the bulls eye. Place the straw over the wick, and hang onto the wick at the top. The straw gives the wick extra rigidity and stability to be placed exactly where it needs to be. Once the wick is placed, push down firmly to establish good adhesion to the glass, and simply let go of the wick and slip the straw off the wick. Isn't that easy? Keep this straw with your wicks so it's always available.

Warning Labels, Warning Labels, WARNING LABELS - For your protection and the protection of the people you are giving/selling the candles to, always, ALWAYS put warning labels on your candles. You can buy them from almost any candle supplier. You can also print them yourself, if you need to. This can save you from a law suit. We can never be too careful these days.

Pouring Your Wax - After the wax cools to where it's cloudy, you are ready to pour into your wicked containers. I do not set a temperature degree for you to pour at, since each brand of wax is different and each climate has a different pour temperature. Some soy waxes get cloudy at 100 ° and others at 130 ° F. Depending on the brand and climate you have, watch it for the milky look it will get as it cools. Once it is cloudy but not slushy, you can pour. **You want your wax cloudy and not slushy so that it still flows into the container when you pour.** I recommend keeping your thermometer in the wax until this point and make note of how warm the wax is at the cloudy point. This way you will know what temperature the

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brand of soy you have can be poured at. Some suppliers will tell you the pour temperature of the particular wax you are purchasing. Some will not.

The reason you want to pour your soy wax at the coolest stage before solidifying is twofold. First, you won't get tops that look all caved in due to shrinkage that occurs when the wax cools down. Second, it will solidify much quicker in the container and you won't have to worry about bumping them or spilling them if they need to be moved. Also, it will help the glass not have those weird 'wet spot' looking marks on the sides. It really does make for a nicer looking candle all around. If you want to layer, this method works in your favor, also.

Pouring into Candle Containers - Make sure that the containers are at room temperature or slightly warmer before pouring the wax into the container. The wax will not stick to the edges and make funny marks on the sides of the candle, as it's poured, when the container is at least room temperature. If you pour into hot containers, it will make the sides of the candle ugly too. Something as simple as having a lamp with a regular light bulb over your work space is perfect. When you pour your candle, aim for the metal wick clip in the center of your container. Try not to dribble or spill on the inner sides of the candle, those will show up. Also, don't rest the pourer on the container while pouring. It makes for dribbling down the side of the candle and pour pot. Pour slowly with a small stream of wax, *like pouring coffee into a cup*.

Center the wick and place craft sticks on either side to keep it there. This is very important. Pull the wick gently to make sure it is straight. Keep checking as it solidifies in case the wick moves.

Cooling and Curing Candles - The candle should be allowed to cool and cure until it is room temperature all the way through before lighting; approximately 6 hours. The scent throw is at its best after about 2 weeks and will last well over a year. The two weeks gives everything time to mingle together. Think of it like home cooking, when you eat it the first night it's delicious but the leftovers are even better! Some candle makers will not burn their candles until the 2 weeks is over, but I've always burned them right away. The choice is yours.

Hints and Tips - Sometimes you will notice a hole or crater around the wick of a cooled candle. This is when we get impatient and pour our wax a bit too early. If the wax is poured when it's clear, instead of cloudy, it forms a top layer as it cools. The wax shrinks a tiny bit as it cools. The top layer ends up breaking when the candle shrinks, causing the holes and craters. This is why we wait till the wax is as cool as it can be before solidifying when we pour in order to get nice pretty tops on our candles. Another reason we get holes is if we pour our wax too fast, this causes a 'wave' of wax to rush in and there will be an odd indentation near the wick. It doesn't affect the performance of the candle in any way. But it's not too pretty. It doesn't hurt anything and you can ignore the look, because, after all, it will be gone the first time you burn it. However, if the look bothers you, there are ways to fix it. You can take a blow dryer or heat embossing gun and warm the very top 1/8th inch of wax to melting and let it dry. It will smooth right out. Or you can heat up more wax and pour a 1/8th to 1/4 inch layer over it.

Be sure to clip your wick to between 1/8th and 1/4 inch long before lighting it each time. This ensures best performance for your candle. Before you relight the candle, reach in and break the wick off by bending it over. Where it breaks off is where the spent wick and good wick meet. Some times it's only 1/8th of an inch long, some times it's longer; that's ok.

Now you know why I say candle making is Soy Easy!

Websites that are soy friendly:

www.peakcandle.com

www.justbynature.com

www.naturesgardencandles.com

www.brambleberry.com

www.cierracandles.com

Remember, the farther away a supplier is, the more shipping and handling you will pay. If a supplier has the cheapest price and is in Ohio, it may not be the cheapest total you pay. Play around with their shopping carts to get the shipping and handling first before ordering. These I have listed will tell you what the shipping is on your order before you place it and allow you to empty your cart if you decide not to buy with them. I use the top one most. The shipping is least expensive and the arrival time is within the week. The other two can take up to 10 days and the shipping is more.