



## **MELT AND POUR SOAP**

### **HINTS & TIPS**



Melt and pour bases allow you to be creative and craft some beautiful soap designs. You can create intricate designs, or elegantly simple soaps and there are almost no limits to the designs you can create.

When using a melt and pour base, it is crucial to follow the manufacturers instructions on processing the base to make soaps.

For most melt and pour bases it is recommended that no more than 2% of additives are added to the base – you may use more than this in the production of your soaps, but results may vary.

Your assessment permits you to use up to 3% essential oils and 5% colourants. You will likely not use close to 5% colourant in your mixture (a little goes a long way with many of the colourants included in your assessment!), but it has been assessed as safe for you to use this amount.

The same applies to the essential oil usage; you might prefer a very lightly fragranced soap so may use less. This is fine as your assessment is based on a “maximum usage” limit, so you are free to use less, but you must not exceed the 3% usage limit.

## PROCESSING THE MELT AND POUR SOAP BASE

***Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.***

- 1) Cut the base into small, evenly sized pieces.
- 2) Gently heat the mixture to completely melt it. Do not apply heat directly to the base (e.g., in a saucepan on the hob!). It is better to use a "Bain Marie" or heat gently in the microwave. ***If heating in the microwave, cover it well with cling wrap and only heat it a minute at a time. Take care not to dry the mixture out.***
- 3) Mix your additives to the melted base, ensuring that the additives are fully mixed and evenly distributed throughout the mixture.
- 4) Quickly pour the mixture into a suitable mould and let it completely set before un moulding it.

Work quickly with your mixture to avoid it solidifying before you have fully incorporated your additives.

Spritzing the surface of the soap in the mould with alcohol can help disperse any bubbles that may have formed on the surface.

If pouring layers of different coloured base, spritz each layer with alcohol or witch hazel to assist them in sticking together better.

*If you are confident in your ability and are experienced in making melt and pour soap, you can try the direct heat method. This is a useful method if you are processing a large amount of soap base.*

*Add the cut-up base to a saucepan and heat on the hob on a low heat. The constant heat will keep the mixture liquid long enough for you to add your additives.*

*Be cautious – it is easy to overheat the mixture using this method. Only try this if you are experienced in using this type of soap base.*

## ADDITIONS TO YOUR SOAP BAR

You may add the following to your soaps to create a wider range of products:

- Sponge, luffah , salt or sugar.
- Colour, mica & glitter
- Fragrance or essential oils