



# GRAY DUCK SOAP

Handmade in the land of 10,000 duck ponds

## How to use shaving soap

To get the best shave you've ever had use one of the three methods outlined step-by-step below.

First, unwrap the shaving puck and put in a shaving mug. Wet your beard with your hands (wetter hair cuts easier). Then use one of these three methods to work up a great lather with a shaving brush:

### Method 1: Damp Brush (neater):

1. Wet brush thoroughly in hot water, then squeeze most of the water out between your fingers. You want it damp, not dripping wet.
2. Push the brush gently against the puck until the hairs spread out, then move in a circular motion until the brush is well-loaded with soap, maybe 10 - 15 rotations. You now have a paste rather than a lather.
3. Swirl the brush firmly over your beard, moving in various directions (you're trying to get the hairs to stand up to be cut), and work the paste in very well, at least 10 - 15 seconds. It's not lather yet.
4. Now drop several drops of water on the still-soapy brush, then go over your face again, for at least another 15 - 20 seconds, to turn the paste into a rich, smooth lather. (The exact time you need will have to be determined by experiment, as water hardness varies. Very soft water makes lather quicker, hard water takes a lot more working.) If the lather isn't light, smooth and almost glossy, add some more drops of water to the brush and repeat. (If you don't have enough water in the lather, it will be dry, like canned shaving lather, and not shave as smoothly.)

### Method 2: Wet Brush (messier)

1. Wet brush thoroughly in hot water, then shake off excess water — don't squeeze it out.
2. Push the brush gently against the puck until the hairs spread out, then move in a circular motion until the brush is well-loaded with soap, maybe 10 - 15 rotations. When lather thickens up in mug, invert over sink and keep the brush going around the soap; it will help the lather reach all the brush, but may drip lather in the sink.
3. Swirl the brush firmly over your beard, moving in various directions for at least 30 seconds, maybe more. You're not just spreading the lather over your face, you're working into your beard and developing a stiffer, wetter lather at the same time, which will help hold up the hairs for cutting. If the lather isn't smooth enough, add some drops of water to the brush and repeat. You'll have to experiment to determine how to make the best lather for your water's hardness.

These two methods are demonstrated in this YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zESTQWDuw>

**Method 3: Two-Bowl** (For this you need another bowl, either a large shaving mug or a small soup bowl, to work up the lather--or, you may be able to use a corner of the sink).

1. Wet brush thoroughly in hot water, then shake off excess water — don't squeeze it out.
2. Push the brush gently against the puck until the hairs spread out, then move in a circular motion only 4 to 6 times; you don't need as much soap on the brush for this method.
3. Sprinkle a few drops of water in the second bowl; then use the partially soaped brush to vigorously work up a lather in the bowl; it may take well over a minute to get the light but firm texture you want. You may need to add a few more drops of water.

4. Rub the lather into your beard with the brush, refilling the brush from the bowl as needed. Don't just brush it on and quit; work the lather into your beard, moving the brush in different directions for at least 15 - 20 seconds.

The method is described in the first part of this YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oJnKmf6oGA>

All three methods will provide a perfect lather, for much smoother shaving with much better results than canned lather. You'll have to experiment to get exactly the right amount of lathering time for your face and your water.

Enjoy the best shaves you'll ever have!

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