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HEIDI VILLEGAS

The Complete Guide to Using Frankincense Essential Oil: Benefits, Uses, Recipes, and More

This article is a complete tutorial and guide to everything you need to know about Frankincense Essential Oil: The benefits, ways you can use it, where it comes from, its history, how to source it, PLUS some amazing easy recipes and essential oil blends you can make right now! I also share my NON-branded advice for finding quality essential oils that won't drain your dollars.

When I first started out using essential oils many years ago, I really didn't give Frankincense essential oil much thought--except I thought it was pretty cool that it was one of the gifts of the Magi at the time of Christ's birth.



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I really had no idea how to use Frankincense essential oil....and although hard to admit now, I didn't even really like the scent very much. But as all things you learn to use, grow and love, I think the scent is absolutely incredible.



Now that I'm a certified aromatherapist with a consulting practice, I find myself turning often to frankincense essential oil. It's great as a main oil in a blend, and it's also excellent as a supporting essential oil as well.

These days, frankincense essential oil has become a common mainstay oil for many essential oil aficionados. But if you are new to essential oils and are not quite sure what to do with frankincense essential oil and how best to harness its powers for yourself and family, this guide is for you!

Many years ago as a beginning dabbler in essential oils, I used to use only use the oils I was very familiar with: Lemon, Lavender, Peppermint, and once in a great while, I'd branch out into Tea Tree or Eucalyptus. Sadly for me, frankincense wasn't in my first group of learning oils. Now, it's a different story. I use frankincense every day.

When I began <u>learning about herbs</u>, and gained a blessed confidence in using actual plants as medicine, I truly began to understand the value of using essential oils for more than simple cleaning and as a wonderful and natural way to scent our house (and my classroom at that time, as I was a school teacher).

That's when I started really considering the uses for frankincense essential oil.

What is it good for? How can it help your health? Why do so many people rave about frankincense?

So, I started using it because that is actually the BEST way for you to really learn how a plant or an essential oil will work for you—to actually experience it. Along with doing a little research first of course, to be sure it's truly right for you.

Read on to learn how you can start using your frankincense essential oil right now, today!

NOW, on to the incredible things Frankincense essential oil has to offer you and your family in this special guide!

FTC Disclosure: There are affiliate links scattered throughout this article. If you click

https://www.healingharvesthomestead.com/home/2017/4/9/insane-things-you-must-know-about-using-frankincense-essential-oil





Frankincense Essential Oil

Benefits & uses for health & beauty



Why would anyone want to use frankincense essential oil? Find out the incredible benefits and uses of frankincense essential oil, PLUS how to use it. Why do you need Frankincense essential oil in your home? Find out all the things to know about Frankincense essential oil and ways to use it! #frankincense #essentialoil #benefits #uses #frankincenseessentialoil #healingharvesthomestead #frankincensetherapy #firstaid #naturalmedicine





My club for learning aromatherapy and how to use essential oils skillfully and safely is an affordable way to learn, make new friends in a student community, and have a masterclass a month plus live Question & Answer times each week! Join us now!

Frankincense Oil: Therapeutic Properties and Actions

Herbs and essential oils that are used for health reasons have what are called "properties," or actions...thus they can be categorized into one or often many more different areas so you know how you can best use them.

Aromatherapists, herbalists, and lay people then know how to mix and match herbs and oils to create their own remedies, skincare products, and more.

Frankincense is a wonderful all-around essential oil. It has these useful properties, which can be medicinal, topical for skin health, aromatic for mood help, and more:

- anti-inflammatory—helps reduce inflammation
- astringent—tightening & toning
- antiseptic—slows or kills the growth of microorganisms; used on the body
- disinfectant-kills microbes, and used on non-living areas, like a counter top
- carminative—aids digestion
- expectorant—supports respiration
- emmenagogue-supports menstruation



Because of these properties, Frankincense is often used for skin care, cellular rejuvenation (for anti-aging), flatulence, balancing female hormones, and wound healing, to name just a few.

You'll read more details about the benefits and uses of frankincense further in this article, but first, let's take a look at the history of this fascinating plant.

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History and Source of Frankincense

Frankincense is a resin from the trees of the genus, *Boswellia*. There are around 20 species of Boswellia trees that grow natively in Africa, India, and most predominantly, the Middle East. The Arabian Peninsula is the primary area of growth, and most of the resin is now sourced in Oman.

These special trees produce an <u>oleo-gum resin</u>, <u>also called frankincense tears</u>; and it's the Boswellia species *B. sacra*, *B. frefreana*, *B. carterii* and *B. serrata* are the most commonly used for commercial essential oil purposes.

Boswellia trees grow in dry, rocky environments and use very little soil. They are amazing survivors in unbelievably harsh desert eco-systems. This is probably on of the reasons frankincense is so powerful.

It should be noted that they are quickly becoming endangered as current harvests for this popular incense and essential oil around the world are threatening the trees' existence. Be sure to look into the sustainability of the essential oil company when you purchase.

The name, "frankincense," is French and comes from the words "franc encens." Franc is old French, and means "noble and pure". Encens means "incense," so you can see that frankincense was and still is a highly esteemed and valued resin and incense.

Frankincense is, of course, one of the prized gifts to the baby Jesus by the Magi and was used in ancient and medieval times throughout the Middle East, Greece, Rome, other parts of Europe, and also for religious ceremonies.

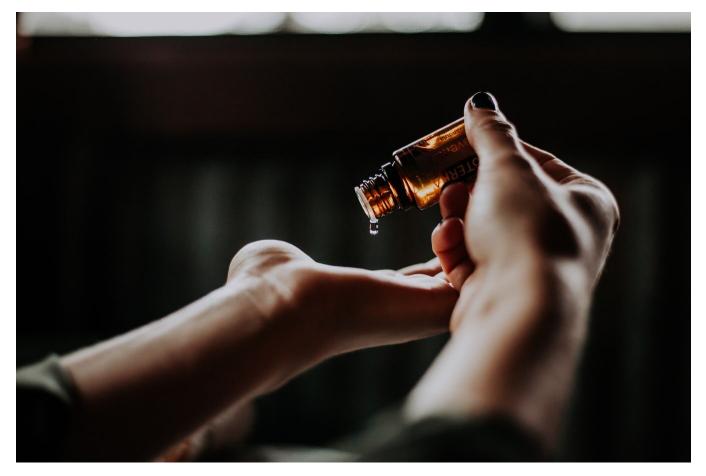
Some of the ways and reasons it was burned include:



- cosmetics
- in Egyptian mummification processes

- to bring good health and purify a home or room
- balancing female hormones
- healing wounds

and more.



You don't need much....just a drop will do.



HOW FIANKINGENSE ESSENTIAL OILIS MAUE

Frankincense resin is sometimes cultivated, and this is the type you should try to purchase. Wild-harvested frankincense, the other way of obtaining the resin, comes from wild trees, and these are extremely endangered.

One tree can only produce a pound or two of resin a year, so you can see how precious this oil is. However, if the tree is taken care of well, it can continue to produce resin for hundreds of years!

You can find out a lot more about how frankincense is harvested in this article about the frankincense tears.

Farmers use a special knife to make an incision or cut, into the trunk of the tree. This wound causes the tree to respond by excreting a sap, which are the "tears" or resin of the tree. This is a protective substance meant to heal the tree.

These drops of resin dry on the tree, and after a few days they are scraped off. They are allowed to harden even further at this point. They can be sold as small, golden resin to be burned as incense....or they can be further processed into essential oil, which is the more common use in developed countries.

**I have some opinions about this, and I'll just say that although I do love the essential oil, I have stopped purchasing it myself to support sustainability efforts....unless I know for sure it is coming from a farm with sustainable practices. I'll talk about this more in a moment.....

After the resin is hardened, it heads to a distillery, where they are powdered and placed in oil. At this point, the combination undergoes steam distillation or CO2 extraction. The resulting essential oil is an earthy-woodsy scented product that has become much loved in our modern times.





Health and Lifestyle Benefits

1) Boosts the Immune System

Did you know that burning Frankincense tears (resin) or diffusing the essential oil cleans the air and space in the room? Used aromatically (rub a drop or two into your palms, rub, and inhale deeply a few times) or topically (on your skin, neat or diluted in a carrier oil), it may help the body fight off infections as well.

I personally use Frankincense on my throat around my lymph nodes if ever I feel a sore throat or cold coming on. I believe it truly helps move the lymph and helps me heal more quickly.

2) Speeds Wound Healing & to Help Prevent Infection

There is evidence that due to the antiseptic properties of Frankincense, it helps speed up healing of wounds, including burns, scrapes, and cuts while significantly decreasing the risk of infection. You can apply it to wounds diluted in a carrier oil or you can create a salve for healing.

3) Mood Enhancer and Stress Reliever

Frankincense contains chemicals that help relieve negative feelings (including stress, anger, sadness, and more). Many people like to rub Frankincense oil on the bottoms of their feet, where not only are you getting the benefits of the scent but the chemical constituents of the oil enters your body through the (over) 200 pores in the soles of your feet.

(Find out some other great ways to deal with stress and fatigue.)

My favorite way to use Frankincense as a mood enhancer is to keep Frankincense and a carrier oil in a roll on that I keep with me all the time. I love to rub it on my temples and/or on the back of my neck where my brain stem is and breathe in the scent. I can seriously feel the positive effects immediately.

If you want to make your own <u>roll on</u>, it's easy! Just add between 10 and 15 drops or so of Frankincense essential Oil and fill the rest of the way with your carrier oil of

choice. I like Almond Oil, Jojoba Oil, or a combination of the two.



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4) Skin Health

Frankincense has been proven to help support the function of your cells, including cell turnover. It's found in high quality skin care products, but you can simply add it to your own unscented lotions and creams!

What I like to do is add one drop to my skin care cream in the evening, and smooth it over my cleansed face. I've noticed a difference in my under-eye area since doing this!

Based on my research, it can help reduce scars and stretch marks, reduce age spots, and help with wrinkles too! You may also enjoy this article on <u>Which Essential Oils</u> are Best for Improving Skin, Wrinkles, and Scars.

Here's how I like to use Frankincense essential oil for my skin---

Face:

After I apply my face cream, I take a drop and rub it into my face before the cream is absorbed or add it directly to the cream. It all goes in together this way!

Under Eyes:

Using the roll-on described above for stress, I actually roll a bit under my eyes one or two times throughout the day to reduce my eye wrinkles and puffiness! (I'm in my 50's, so I'm really noticing those lines these days!)

Hands:



Scars and Stretch Marks:

I don't have a problem with scars or stretch marks, but if I did, I'd go ahead and apply Frankincense directly to the areas or if I had sensitive skin, dilute it in some carrier oil or moisturizer. I can't say if this works, but I have heard from a number of sources that it does! (See Sources listed below.)

Fingernails:

I rub a drop or two into my cuticles once a day. I've seen a huge improvement in my fingernails since I've been doing this---especially through these past winter months of dry and cold.

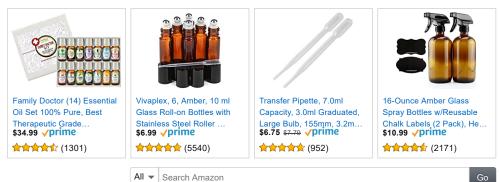
Body:

Your skin is the largest organ on your body! It pays to take good care of it. I add Frankincense to both my own homemade creams and butters as well as to unscented organic creams I purchase. I love the clean fresh scent, and I love the way it makes my skin look!

NOTE: For using on my skin, I purchase my essential oils from either <u>Rocky</u> <u>Mountain Oils</u> or <u>Starwest Botanicals</u>. <u>Plant Therapy</u> also carries excellent essential oils, as does Mountain Rose Herbs.



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https://www.healingharvesthomestead.com/home/2017/4/9/insane-things-you-must-know-about-using-frankincense-essential-oil





The resin from a tree that's been tapped creates the "tears" which harden and then are harvested.

5) Oral Health

There is evidence that Frankincense may help with oral issues such as bad breath and mouth sores. I don't want to say it can help with cavities (although I've read studies stating it can), but I don't have personal experience with this.

Place a drop or two in a small bit of water, and swish it around your mouth for a couple of minutes after brushing your teeth. You can also add a drop to your toothpaste and brush away!

If you are interested in natural dental alternatives, you will enjoy:

Natural Options for Healthy Teeth, Pain, and Infection, as well as How to Make Your Own Natural Tooth Powder (and yes, you can add Frankincense to it!)

6) Digestive Issues

Since Frankincense is a carminative, it helps with your digestion--especially with flatulence. Some people say you can add a drop or two to water, mix and drink--and this will help with digestive issues.

Frankly, I do NOT advocate adding essential oils to water or ingesting them in any way because, you know: oil and water don't mix. And...this is a direct recommendation from NAHA, the National Association for Holistic Aromatherapy.

You can just rub a few drops, diluted in your carrier oil, into your stomach and abdominal area.



these. Here are a couple of recipes you can make quickly that will keep your home sparkling:

How to Make Frankincense Cleaning Spray

1 cup of water

1/2 cup of vinegar (I like to infuse my vinegar with lavender flowers first, but you don't have to)

essential oils:

10 drops Lemon

10 drops Frankincense (For making cleaning products and soaps, I get my essential oils from <u>Starwest Botanicals</u>---also high quality, and you can buy in slightly larger quantities if you like.)

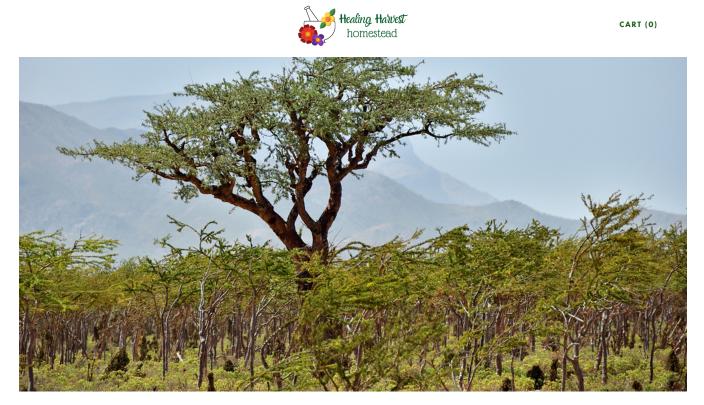
5 drops Tea Tree

Put all in a spray bottle, and give a good shake before spraying. You can use this on all surfaces EXCEPT wood. I have wood laminate flooring, and it's fine for that.

How to Make Exceptional Cleaning Soft Scrub

This is SO easy. My favorite scrub consists of using baking soda, which I liberally sprinkle where I need to, followed by a spray of vinegar (I use the spray above), then add a couple extra drops of Frankincense & Tea Tree for extra disinfecting if you want.

Why this works? The baking soda reacts with the vinegar in the spray to immediately start breaking down grease and grime. It's WAY better than using chemical scrubs like Comet, I promise! Adding extra essential oil drops just increases the power of the disinfectant action and helps even more with the dirt/grime.



This is a Boswellia tree, where frankincense tears and the essential oil, come from.

What Other Essential Oils Blend with Frankincense Oil?

Frankincense essential oil blends well with the Citrus group (Lemon, Wild Orange, Lime) as well as Cypress, Lavender, Ylang Ylang, Clary Sage, and Geranium if you want to create a blend to diffuse! I also love blending it with Myrrh and also Patchouli.

Where Do I Get My Frankincense Essential Oil?

There are six criteria I use to ascertain if an essential oil brand is good enough for me to use with my family:

- They use third party testing;
- They have at least some organic options;
- · Is their an education proponent to their website;
- Do they have a Kid-safe line or at least specify which are ok for kids to use?;
- NOT an MLM--as I just think they are over-priced; however, with that said, MLM's "generally" do have high quality products.
- Are they reasonably priced but still high quality, and especially organic?

You can find out more about <u>how I choose a good essential oil company to buy from</u> in this article with a lot more details. I don't think you should break your bank account to buy most essential oils, especially common ones, like lavender. However, some are just expensive. Frankincense is one of these.

Here are my favorite brands I have found that meet these criteria: Plant Therapy,



Starwest Botanicals. They have good quality essential oils for things like this or using therapeutically as well.

This gives you a good array of quality companies that I personally vouch for to research and choose between for yourself.

Essential Oil Resources





Contraindications (Safety Factors) for Using Frankincense Oil:

When used "neat" (without dilution) Frankincense may cause skin sensitivity. This means a person may experience a rash, or have sensitization issues when using frankincense essential oil in the future.

I personally have not ever experienced skin sensitization, but I do know some people who have. Just be aware, and do a patch test if you have sensitive skin or if, after using your skin feels sensitive--dilute more. You should be using no more than a 5% dilution as an adult, and much lower for children.

Since Frankincense is an emmenagogue, please consult a physician before using if you are pregnant or nursing. Personally, I would just avoid it altogether if I were pregnant, just in case. As with all essential oils, avoid use around the eyes, ears (inside), and sensitive areas of your body.



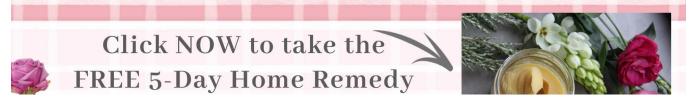
Final Thoughts About Using Frankincense Essential Oil

Frankincense, after its somewhat rocky start in my early essential oil experiences, is now one of my favorite essential oils that I use daily. I love it so much, I won't let it run out in our household! It's wonderful to use in oils for massages, too.

And did I mention it's perfect as an essential oil to use for meditation? Yep! It also helps clarify the mind. Anyhow, I hope you'll give Frankincense essential oil a try. It's a wonderful gift from the plant world.

Would you like more information about using essential oils? You'll probably also enjoy

- How to Use Frankincense Tears for Health and Beauty
- The Best Essential Oils for Wrinkles and Scars,
- · What is the Best Way to Diffuse Your Essential Oils,
- INSANE Things to Know About Tea Tree Oil and Why It Should Be in Your Home (and many others on the blog).





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Ready to start using herbs and essential oils for your family's wellness? Ready to start substituting those over-the-counter medications with natural options that work better without the sideeffects? Start your journey with the 5-Day FREE Home Remedy Herbal Foundations email course!

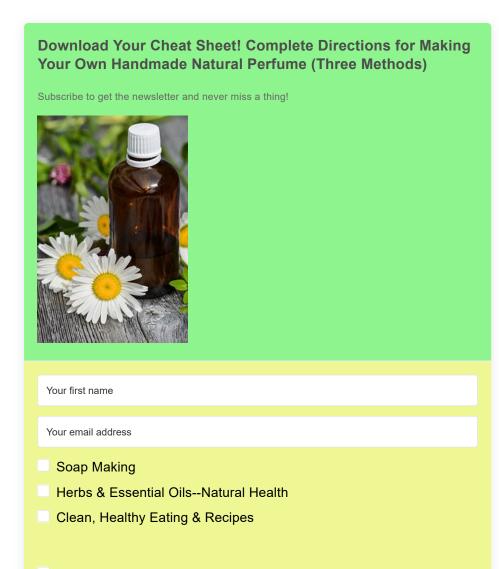
> I'd love to hear what you think of Frankincense essential oil-- Since this is an oil that I kind of shied away from for awhile because it was so "exotic" sounding, and I have had such great experiences with it, I'd sure like to know your thoughts about it too! Leave a comment in the comments section!

Hugs, Health, & Self-Reliance,

Heidi

P.S. Please <u>sign up for our newsletter</u>! You also get access to the free **Resource** Library. Find out how to use essential oils, herbs, and start your self-reliance journey with downloadable & printable guides, eBooks, checklists, cheat sheets, and lots more! :-)

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Resources Used and For More Information:

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Have you ever wondered how (and why) to use Frankincense Essential Oil? I know I did, when I first started using essential oils. Here is your complete guide and tutorial for everything about frankincense essential oil, including benefits, uses, and recipes. #frankincense #essentialoil #benefits #uses #benefitsanduses #howtouse #remedies #naturalremedies #homeremedy #healingharvesthomestead



Comments (9)

Oldest First



Kate Hollingsworth 4 years ago · O Likes

Heidi I can vouch for Frankincense! I've had a sore on my forehead for over a year now. The skin just doesn't grow there anymore (doctor said it's sun-damaged). This one spot just scabs then bleeds, scabs then bleeds ... yep, it's gross. Anyway, I've tried so many things and nothing worked. A few months ago I started putting frankincense and coconut oil on it twice a day and guess what - the skin is starting to grow back! I'm beyond thrilled! xx



Heidi Villegas 4 years ago · O Likes

Hi, Kate!

Wow! I'm so very glad to hear that! I agree--in my opinion, Frankincense of good quality is just a miracle. I'm seeing big differences in my old lady wrinkles since I've been using it too! :-) Isn't it crazy how natural and plant remedies can cure what other things can't? :-)

Have a beautiful day! Heidi

SA herbal bioactives 3 years ago · O Likes

its good for Pain Relief...!!

Jen 3 years ago · O Likes

I started using it and I started feeling healthier.



Heidi Villegas 3 years ago · O Likes

That's great, Jen! :-)

Michelle 3 years ago · O Likes

I can vouch for frankincense as well. I was told I have neuropathy in my left ankle. The Dr prescribed me a daily medication, with many side affects. Instead I started using frankincense and almond oil whenever I have a flare up. It works great!!



just always better. Thank you so much for sharing with us !

CART (0)

Rebecca 3 years ago · O Likes

Have you looked into the young living line and if so, what are your thoughts?



Heidi Villegas 3 years ago · O Likes

Hi, Rebecca!

I actually started my essential oil journey about 10 years ago or so with YL. I think their essential oils are just wonderful! I stopped distributing for them when I ran into some financial difficulties in my personal life. You have to buy a certain amount per month to get paid commissions. DoTerra is the same way---and I'm currently a distributor for them, but I don't push the essential oils any more because they limit what I can say about them online.

With the MLM's, my opinion is their products are always GREAT quality. The nutritional supplement company, USANA, is the same way. EXCEPTIONAL products---but they are VERY overpriced. In my opinion, there are good options that are affordable for most people that still have good quality.

The thing with essential oils---they are expensive, no matter which way you slice it. So, you do have to work within your budget while still trying to purchase the best quality EO's you can. It would be great for everyone to be able to afford to use them. If money is not a factor, then MLM's are just fine. But I really believe you can get essential oils from excellent companies that are not nearly as expensive.

Sorry for the book! :-). Anyway---I think YL oils are fabulous!

Hope that helps! Heidi

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