

Manual

Melt and Pour Soap Base



Learn in **20 minutes**

Level **easy**

Cost **\$35**

Ingredients

- [MeltSoap](#) base
- Essential Oils
- Mica pigments
- Rubbing Alcohol

Preparation

Melt and Pour Soapmaking Manual

Basic Ingredients

- **Melt and Pour Soap Base:** This is a pre-made block of soap that has ingredients like glycerin added to it to make it easy to melt down.
- **Colors:** Pearlescent mica pigments by MeltSoap are recommended because they can be easily mixed in a melt and pour base, making fantastic soap colors.
- **Skin-Safe Fragrance Oil:** It's crucial to use fragrances specifically designed for soap and bath products, ensuring they've been tested for skin safety. Candle fragrances are not appropriate for soapmaking. Natural essential oils are highly recommended.
- **Mold:** Silicone molds are recommended, but plastic and rubber can also be used. The key is to have a mold that allows the soap to be easily

removed. Avoid glass or metal containers.

- **Crinkle Cutters (Optional):** These are helpful for cutting the soap base into small cubes for melting and for creating decorative final products.

Nice-to-Have Items

- **Thermometer:** Useful for monitoring the temperature of the soap base, particularly for swirling and layering techniques.
- **Heat-Safe Containers:** Designated containers for soapmaking.
- **Spray Bottle with Rubbing Alcohol:** Spritzing the poured soap with rubbing alcohol helps eliminate bubbles.

Adding Extra Oils

- You can add extra oils like avocado oil or olive oils or butters like mango butter to your soap base for conditioning properties.
- Limit additions to 1 teaspoon per pound of soap base to avoid a soft, oily bar and reduced lather.
- Solid oils and butters may need to be pre-melted before adding to the soap base.

Swirling Melt and Pour Soap

- Melt and pour swirls will look different from cold process swirls due to a shorter working time.
- **Temperature Control:** Different brands of melt and pour soap have different ideal swirling temperatures, generally around 130-140 degrees

Fahrenheit. Use a thermometer to monitor temperatures closely.

- **Similar Temperatures:** Ensure both colors of soap base have very similar temperatures for optimal swirling.
- **Contrasting Colors:** Use colors that contrast sharply for well-defined swirls.
- **Patience:** Work patiently, allowing layers to set slightly between pours.
- **Loaf Molds:** For best results, pour into a loaf mold or similar shape to reveal the swirl pattern when cut.

Soap Sweating

- **Soap Sweat:** The glycerin in melt and pour soap attracts moisture, causing "sweat" or beads of moisture on the surface. This is harmless but aesthetically unappealing. Our MeltSoap product is low sweating in humid climates and non-sweating in dry climates.
- **Solutions:**
 - Add a spoon of water to the molten melt and pour soap base just before pouring.
 - Run a fan over the soap for a few hours after it sets.
 - Experiment with removing additives, which can contribute to sweating.
 - Wrap the soap immediately after it sets.

Wrapping Soap

- Wrapping helps prevent soap sweat and preserves the soap.
- **Options:**
 - **Shrink Wrap Bands:** Available in various sizes.

Slide the soap into the band and use a heat gun to shrink it.

- **Cling Wrap (Saran Wrap):** A more readily available option. Wrap the soap tightly and use a heat gun on low to seal the wrap. Be cautious to avoid melting the soap or creating holes in the wrap. Cling wrap may start deteriorating after 3 months so it's better to use shrink wrap.



Melt and Pour Soap in Soap

- You can embed melt and pour soap into cold process soap or vice versa.
- **Tips:**
 - Use low-sweat melt and pour soap base to prevent sweating within the cold process soap.
 - Cool the melt and pour soap base to make the embeds well in advance before embedding.



Troubleshooting Odors

- **Possible Causes:**
 - Using two incompatible fragrances
 - Boiling the soap base in the microwave during melting can produce an unpleasant odor.
 - Insufficient fragrance oil can result in the natural soapy smell overpowering the added fragrance. Ensure you're using the recommended fragrance load for your soap base.

