

SOAP Opera

Making your own soap is easier than you think, and it makes for a great gift – perfect for Mother's Day! The lovely people from The Soap Kitchen show you how

TOP TIP

Fill the plastic mould with water to find out exactly how much soap to use. Add on a little extra as there is always a bit of waste left in the jug.

TOP TIP

Do not overheat the soap base. If it gets too hot it can ruin the plastic mould and make it tricky to remove the soap.

Where to buy

All the materials used to create the projects here are available from www.thesoapkitchen.co.uk

YOU WILL NEED

- white melt & pour soap base ♥ clear melt & pour soap base ♥ Zenicolor 5-colour pack ♥ fragrance or essential oil of your choice ♥ microwavable jug ♥ spoon ♥ microwave or hob (if using the hob you will also need a saucepan) ♥ plastic or silicone moulds

HOW TO MAKE

1 Place the melt and pour soap into a microwavable jug and cook on high for approximately 30 seconds. (Cutting the soap base into smaller chunks it will make the melting easier.)

2 Take it out of the microwave and give the soap a quick stir. If there are still bits of soap that haven't melted, pop it back in for a further 10 seconds.

3 Once the soap is fully melted, add your fragrance/essential oil and colour. We chose to use pink Zenicolor on a clear base.

4 Stir in the colour, mixing it well and avoiding over stirring as this creates bubbles in the soap.

5 When the colour and fragrance/essential oils have been added, pour the mixture into the moulds.

6 Don't fill the mould all the way to the top - leaving a small gap between the soap and the plastic will help you push the soap out when it's set.

7 Once the soap has been poured into the mould, lightly spray it with alcohol to help remove any bubbles that will sit on the surface of the soap. If you don't have alcohol to hand, witch hazel will work just as well. (The alcohol does not stay in the soap, it will evaporate as the bubbles disappear.)

8 Wait until the soaps are fully set before pushing them out. You can put them in the fridge to help this process, or leave them at room temperature for approximately 45 minutes to an hour.

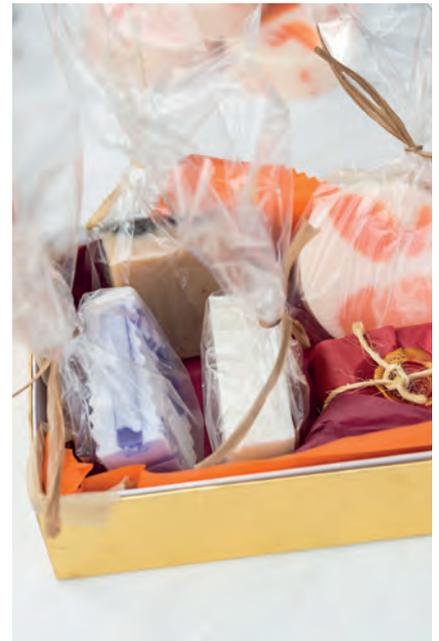
TOP TIP
Pushing the soaps out too early increases the risk of distorting and spoiling them as they might not be completely set



Gift Ideas

Make an assortment of soaps and present them in cellophane bags tied with ribbon, or place them in a basket or box with shredded tissue in the base

Use colours and fragrances in the soap that suit your recipient to make the gift more personal



Fundraising Ideas

Soapmaking is great for fundraising and makes a lovely alternative to a cake sale. Remember to list the soap ingredients on the packaging

