



## Candle Making Questions & Answers

### **Why are my candles turning white?**

This is a natural process for beeswax and is called a 'bloom'. Only 100% beeswax candles will bloom. It is most common when the candle has been exposed to many temperature changes. You can remove the bloom by wiping it off with a soft cloth.

### **Why do my candles have air bubbles?**

Candles with air bubbles are usually the result of too cool wax or pouring the wax too fast. Make sure your wax is at the proper pouring temperature (160 degrees) and that you pour the wax slowly into the mold.

### **Why is wick size important?**

Wick size plays an important role in the final candle results. There are many factors that dictate the size wick required for each candle, but the two most important are type of wax and diameter of the candle. A properly wicked candle will have a melt pool almost the entire diameter of the candle and about 1/4" deep. A pool deeper than 1/4" is an indicator that the wick is too large. A candle that "pits" or burns straight down the center may have a wick that is too small. Test burns are very helpful in determining the proper wick size.

### **Do I need a wicking needle?**

While some candles do not require wicking needles, many do. Wicking needles are about 14" long and allow you to thread the wick through rubber molds. If you are using a short mold, you can use a yarn needle instead. Metal molds do not usually require wicking needles. Lyson candle molds do not require wicking needles as they have a unique side and bottom cut that allows for easy wicking.

### **Safety in Candlemaking**

Beeswax is very flammable so care must be taken when using it. Never leave melting wax unattended and never expose wax to direct heat or an open flame.

Do not heat wax in a microwave! This can be very dangerous.

### **Releasing Molds**

Sometimes candles can be tricky to remove from molds. Rubber molds are usually easier to release than metal molds. Relesagen spray can be used on molds prior to pouring to help with the release. Make sure candles are completely cool before pulling them from the mold. Pulling a warm candle can result in wax sticking to the mold or defects in the candle. Putting the cooled mold in the freezer for a few hours will also help the release process. This shrinks the wax and makes pulling the candle easier.

### **Other Candle Hints**

- Rubber bands work very well to hold a rubber mold together while you pour. Also consider a pair of panty hose over the entire mold for support.
- Bobby pins, skewers and drinking straws are excellent tools for centered wicks
- Freeze blocks of wax and break with a hammer. Freezing the wax makes it brittle and easier to break.

### **Rendering Wax**

There are many different ways to clean and process wax. Properly cleaned and filtered wax can make a big difference in your final candle product. Most purchased wax comes filtered and cleaned but if you are lucky enough to use wax from your own hive you know it starts a little messy! One option for cleaning is to place the wax in a crock pot or a pot of water, bring the water to a boil and allow to melt. Once the wax has melted remove it from the heat and allow it to cool. You will be left with three distinct layers; water, honey and debris then wax at the top. Scraping off the layer of debris will remove a lot of the "gunk" from your wax. You may find that you need to repeat this process several times to get the wax thoroughly cleaned. An alternative method is to pull all of the wax into a pair of pantyhose, tie off the end and place this in the pot of water. The pantyhose work as a filter and allow the wax to melt through into the water.

### **Bayberry Wax**

Bayberry wax can be a fun way to incorporate a new scent into your candle making. Bayberry is a very brittle wax and can be difficult to use but there are few tricks to adding this wonderful wax to your candle making. We mix three parts beeswax with one part bayberry. The beeswax helps with the brittleness of the bayberry and allows for a smoother burn. If you are using 100% bayberry make sure to spray your molds with a release spray. Bayberry can be very difficult to remove from molds without a release spray.