



chapter
ten

SOMETHING SEASONAL

Everyone likes fun and creative soaps around the holidays and for special events. For those of us who make soap, they add a lovely scent to your kitchen as you make and cure them. Your house will smell wonderfully festive. They also make great gifts. Who wouldn't like a present that is all-natural, healthy, and made personally by you? I've been making these seasonal soaps and selling them at my Simple Life Mom Etsy shop for a few years and they're always a big hit. They're not just for holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving, but are also fantastic for birthdays, weddings, and showers. This chapter is celebration central—I'm sure you'll find a recipe that will be perfect for your special occasion.

Left: Cocoa-Mint Soap (top), page 64; Candy Cane Soap (bottom), page 162

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PUMPKIN SPICE SOAP

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| ● MOISTURIZING | YIELD: 3 POUNDS OR 12 (4-OUNCE) BARS | LYE DISCOUNT: 10% | SCENT: CINNAMON, CLOVE, ALLSPICE, AND NUTMEG |
| START TO FINISH TIME: 1 to 2 hours, 24 hours insulation, 4 to 6 weeks to cure | | | |

I always have this soap in stock in my shop around the fall and early winter months. It just says “fall” with its earthy orange color and cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, and allspice scent. Every year, I purée pumpkins from my garden and set some aside to use for this soap. It makes a great thank-you gift for your Thanksgiving host.

SAFETY FIRST! Remember to wear your safety equipment and mix the lye water outside. Tell everyone you live with that where you’re working is off limits. Give yourself enough time to complete the recipe.

EQUIPMENT

- kitchen scale
- glass bowls
- large spoon
- large stainless steel pot
- small zip-top plastic bag
- thermometer
- mold
- parchment paper
- stick blender (or hand mixer)
- rubber spatula
- blanket

INGREDIENTS

- 9 ounces lard
- 9 ounces coconut oil
- 8 ounces olive oil
- 3 ounces shea butter
- 3 ounces castor oil
- 2 ounces sweet almond oil
- 4.5 ounces lye
- 8.9 ounces filtered water
- 0.25 ounce cinnamon leaf essential oil
- 0.25 ounce clove essential oil
- 0.25 ounce nutmeg essential oil
- 0.25 ounce allspice essential oil
- 4 ounces pumpkin purée

1. HEAT THE FATS/OILS In a large pot, combine the lard, coconut oil, olive oil, shea butter, castor oil, and sweet almond oil. Heat over medium-low heat until they are melted and incorporated. Remove from the heat and allow to cool to 100° to 110°F.

2. MIX THE LYE WATER Put on safety gear, including protective eyewear, a mask, gloves, and long sleeves. Outside, carefully add the lye crystals to the water and stir until dissolved. Allow to cool to 100° to 110°F. If the oils and lye water cool at different rates, you can use a cold- or hot-water bath in the sink.

3. PREPARE THE MOLD While the oils and lye water cool, line the mold with parchment paper.

4. COMBINE AND BRING TO TRACE When both the oils and lye water are 100° to 110°F, carefully pour the lye water into the pot of oils. Use a stick blender (or hand mixer) to mix for

1 to 2 minutes and then let the mixture rest for 4 to 5 minutes. Repeat mixing and resting until light trace.

5. MIX IN NATURAL ADDITIVES When the soap reaches light trace, add the cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, and allspice essential oils and the pumpkin purée, and blend for 30 seconds.

6. MOLD THE SOAP Pour the soap mixture into the mold, cover with a lid or parchment paper, and insulate with a blanket for 24 hours.

7. CUT AND CURE Remove the soap from the mold. If it seems too soft to remove, wait another 12 to 24 hours before removing. Cut the soap into 12 (4-ounce) bars. Allow the bars to cure in a well-ventilated location for 4 to 6 weeks.

TIP Remember, when adding purées, always remove the same weight in water. I've already done that for you in this recipe.

CANDY CANE SOAP

● GENTLE

YIELD: 3 POUNDS OR
12 (4-OUNCE) BARS

LYE DISCOUNT: 5%

SCENT: PEPPERMINT

START TO FINISH TIME: 1 to 2 hours, 24 hours insulation, 4 to 6 weeks to cure

This is a bright, eye-catching soap that has a candy cane swirl and a peppermint scent. You can make yours with minimal swirls so that they look more like a candy cane or you can swirl it up and make your own design. I always run out and have to make extra batches of these beauties around the holidays. They're pretty for Valentine's Day as well.

SAFETY FIRST! Remember to wear your safety equipment and mix the lye water outside. Tell everyone you live with that where you're working is off limits. Give yourself enough time to complete the recipe.

EQUIPMENT

- kitchen scale
- measuring spoons
- glass bowls
- large spoon
- large stainless steel pot
- small zip-top plastic bag
- thermometer
- mold
- parchment paper
- stick blender (or hand mixer)
- whisk
- rubber spatula
- chopstick
- blanket

INGREDIENTS

- 12 ounces tallow
- 10 ounces olive oil
- 8 ounces coconut oil
- 3 ounces castor oil
- 4.4 ounces lye
- 12.5 ounces filtered water
- 1 ounce peppermint essential oil
- ½ to 1 tablespoon madder root powder

- 1. HEAT THE FATS/OILS** In a large pot, combine the tallow, olive oil, coconut oil, and castor oil. Heat over medium-low heat until they are melted and incorporated. Remove from the heat and allow to cool to 100° to 110°F.
- 2. MIX THE LYE WATER** Put on safety gear, including protective eyewear, a mask, gloves, and long sleeves. Outside, carefully add the lye crystals to the water and stir until dissolved. Allow to cool to 100° to 110°F. If the oils and lye water cool at different rates, you can use a cold- or hot-water bath in the sink.
- 3. PREPARE THE MOLD** While the oils and lye water cool, line the mold with parchment paper.
- 4. COMBINE AND BRING TO TRACE** When both the oils and lye water are 100° to 110°F, carefully pour the lye water into the pot of oils. Use a stick blender (or hand mixer) to mix for 1 to 2 minutes and then let the mixture rest for 4 to 5 minutes. Repeat mixing and resting until light trace.
- 5. MIX IN NATURAL ADDITIVES** When the soap reaches light to medium trace, add the peppermint essential oil and blend for 30 seconds.
- 6. MIX IN COLORANTS** Transfer ½ cup of the soap to a small bowl. Add the madder root powder and whisk until there are no lumps.

7. MOLD THE SOAP AND SWIRL When the soap is at medium trace (just a little thinner than pudding), pour the large batch into the mold. Pour the red soap horizontally, back and forth, over the surface of the soap. Insert a chopstick into the batter until it reaches the bottom of the mold. Drag the chopstick vertically, back and forth, across the length of the mold. Cover with a lid or parchment paper and insulate with a blanket for 24 hours.

8. CUT AND CURE Remove the soap from the mold. If it seems too soft to remove, wait another 12 to 24 hours before removing. Cut the soap into 12 (4-ounce) bars. Allow the bars to cure in a well-ventilated location for 4 to 6 weeks.

TIP Your soap needs to be at medium trace to create the swirl on top or the color will sink inside the soap. If your soap is too thin, blend with the stick blender or wait a few minutes for it to thicken before pouring into the mold. If you have poured the red soap back and forth over the top of your batch and have extra, don't use it. Overuse will give you a solid red on top rather than pretty red stripes or swirls.

FALL SUNSET SOAP

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|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● GENTLE● MOISTURIZING● VEGAN | YIELD: 3 POUNDS OR 12 (4-OUNCE) BARS | LYE DISCOUNT: 10% | SCENT: ORANGE, CINNAMON, AND GINGER |
| START TO FINISH TIME: 1 to 2 hours, 24 hours insulation, 4 to 6 weeks to cure | | | |

This soap is an earthy variation of sunset colors like cream, yellow, orange, and rusty red. Orange, cinnamon, and ginger essential oils give it a spiced cider scent that really fits into the fall and holiday season. I used the spin-swirl method described in chapter 6 to give this bar a horizon appearance. Remember to watch for light trace so that you have time to complete the layers, and be very gentle with the spin so that you don't spill the soap all over your kitchen.

SAFETY FIRST! Remember to wear your safety equipment and mix the lye water outside. Tell everyone you live with that where you're working is off limits. Give yourself enough time to complete the recipe.



EQUIPMENT

- kitchen scale
- measuring spoons
- glass bowls
- large spoon
- large stainless steel pot
- small zip-top plastic bag
- thermometer
- mold
- parchment paper
- stick blender (or hand mixer)
- whisk
- rubber spatula
- blanket

INGREDIENTS

- 11 ounces olive oil
- 8 ounces coconut oil
- 5 ounces apricot kernel oil
- 4 ounces cocoa butter
- 3 ounces castor oil
- 4.1 ounces lye
- 11.8 ounces filtered water
- 0.4 ounce orange essential oil
- 0.4 ounce cinnamon leaf essential oil
- 0.4 ounce ginger essential oil
- 3 teaspoons ground turmeric
- 2 teaspoons rose clay
- 2 teaspoons Moroccan orange clay

1. HEAT THE FATS/OILS In a large pot, combine the olive oil, coconut oil, apricot kernel oil, cocoa butter, and castor oil. Heat over medium-low heat until they are melted and incorporated. Remove from the heat and allow to cool to 90° to 100°F.

2. MIX THE LYE WATER Put on safety gear, including protective eyewear, a mask, gloves, and long sleeves. Outside, carefully add the lye crystals to the water and stir until dissolved. Allow to cool to 90° to 100°F. If the oils and lye water cool at different rates, remember that you can use a cold- or hot-water bath in the sink.

3. PREPARE THE MOLD While the oils and lye water cool, line the mold with parchment paper.

4. COMBINE AND BRING TO TRACE When both the oils and lye water are 90° to 100°F, carefully pour the lye water into the pot of oils. Use a stick blender (or hand mixer) to mix for 2 to 3 minutes and then let the mixture rest for 4 to 5 minutes. Repeat mixing and resting until light trace.

5. MIX IN NATURAL ADDITIVES When the soap reaches very light trace, add the orange, cinnamon, and ginger essential oils, and blend for a few seconds.

6. MIX IN COLORANTS Divide the soap evenly into 4 bowls. Leave the first alone, add the ground turmeric to the second, rose clay to the third, and Moroccan orange clay to the fourth. Whisk each until there are no lumps.

7. MOLD THE SOAP AND SWIRL Using the spin method to add swirls (see page 62), pour the soap into the mold while your soap is still thin. Count to 3 while pouring one color in one corner of your mold. Take the same color and pour it into the opposite corner, counting to 3 again. Repeat with the next color. Continue, repeating colors until all the soap is poured into the mold. Very gently, turn the mold back and forth. It will spill if you do this too fast. Repeat a few times until you're happy with the swirl. Cover with a lid or parchment paper and insulate with a blanket for 24 hours.

8. CUT AND CURE Remove the soap from the mold. If it seems too soft to remove, wait another 12 to 24 hours before removing. Cut the soap into 12 (4-ounce) bars. Allow the bars to cure in a well-ventilated location for 4 to 6 weeks.

TIP Your soap needs to be at very light trace when you start to pour, so watch carefully. These colors will become more muted after 24 hours (especially the turmeric), so feel free to add more color, ½ teaspoon at a time, if desired.

CEDARWOOD AND FIR SOAP

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|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● GENTLE● MOISTURIZING | YIELD: 3 POUNDS OR 12 (4-OUNCE) BARS | LYE DISCOUNT: 10% | SCENT: CEDARWOOD AND FIR |
| START TO FINISH TIME: 1 to 2 hours, 24 hours insulation, 4 to 6 weeks to cure | | | |

This is a very light, cream-colored soap that has a Christmas tree scent. It is not a stark pine, but it has cedarwood and fir essential oils to give it more of a walk-in-the-woods feeling. I find myself taking deep breaths and feeling rejuvenated whenever I have it around. The men in my family really like it as well. This makes a hard bar with creamy, large bubbles and jojoba oil to help your skin maintain moisture.

SAFETY FIRST! Remember to wear your safety equipment and mix the lye water outside. Tell everyone you live with that where you're working is off limits. Give yourself enough time to complete the recipe.

EQUIPMENT

- kitchen scale
- glass bowls
- large spoon
- large stainless steel pot
- small zip-top plastic bag
- thermometer
- mold
- parchment paper
- stick blender (or hand mixer)
- rubber spatula
- blanket

INGREDIENTS

- 10 ounces lard
- 8 ounces olive oil
- 8 ounces coconut oil
- 2 ounces jojoba
- 2 ounces shea butter
- 4 ounces castor oil
- 4.4 ounces lye
- 12.9 ounces filtered water
- 0.5 ounce cedarwood essential oil
- 0.5 ounce fir essential oil

- 1. HEAT THE FATS/OILS** In a large pot, combine the lard, olive oil, coconut oil, jojoba oil, shea butter, and castor oil. Heat over medium-low heat until they are melted and incorporated. Remove from the heat and allow to cool to 100° to 110°F.
- 2. MIX THE LYE WATER** Put on safety gear, including protective eyewear, a mask, gloves, and long sleeves. Outside, carefully add the lye crystals to the water and stir until dissolved. Allow to cool to 100° to 110°F. If the oils and lye water cool at different rates, you can use a cold- or hot-water bath in the sink.
- 3. PREPARE THE MOLD** While the oils and lye water cool, line the mold with parchment paper.
- 4. COMBINE AND BRING TO TRACE** When both the oils and lye water are 100° to 110°F, carefully pour the lye water into the pot of oils.

Use a stick blender (or hand mixer) to mix for 1 to 2 minutes and then let the mixture rest for 4 to 5 minutes. Repeat mixing and resting until light trace.

- 5. MIX IN NATURAL ADDITIVES** When the soap reaches light trace, add the cedarwood and fir essential oils and blend for 30 seconds.
- 6. MOLD THE SOAP** Pour the soap mixture into the mold, cover with a lid or parchment paper, and insulate with a blanket for 24 hours.
- 7. CUT AND CURE** Remove the soap from the mold. If it seems too soft to remove, wait another 12 to 24 hours before removing. Cut the soap into 12 (4-ounce) bars. Allow the bars to cure in a well-ventilated location for 4 to 6 weeks.

WALK IN THE WOODS SOAP

• VEGAN

YIELD: 3 POUNDS OR
12 (4-OUNCE) BARS

LYE DISCOUNT: 15%

SCENT: LAVENDER AND
PATCHOULI

START TO FINISH TIME: 1 to 2 hours, 24 hours insulation, 4 to 6 weeks to cure

For your first swirl soap, you will remove the cream-colored soap for the swirl. You'll then add nettle leaf powder to the larger batch, and create a rich green soap with white swirls. Patchouli and lavender essential oils come together to make a wonderful, grounding floral and woody scent.

SAFETY FIRST! Remember to wear your safety equipment and mix the lye water outside. Tell everyone you live with that where you're working is off limits. Give yourself enough time to complete the recipe.

EQUIPMENT

- kitchen scale
- measuring spoons
- glass bowls
- large spoon
- large stainless steel pot
- small zip-top plastic bag
- thermometer
- mold
- parchment paper
- stick blender (or hand mixer)
- whisk
- rubber spatula
- chopstick
- blanket

INGREDIENTS

- 10 ounces babassu oil
- 9 ounces olive oil
- 7 ounces macadamia nut oil
- 5 ounces castor oil
- 4 ounces shea butter
- 4.3 ounces lye
- 13.3 ounces water
- 0.5 ounce lavender essential oil
- 0.5 ounce patchouli essential oil
- 2 tablespoons nettle leaf powder

1. HEAT THE FATS/OILS In a large pot, combine the babassu oil, olive oil, macadamia nut oil, castor oil, and shea butter. Heat over medium-low heat until they are melted and incorporated. Remove from the heat and allow to cool to 90° to 100°F.

2. MIX THE LYE WATER Put on safety gear, including protective eyewear, a mask, gloves, and long sleeves. Outside, carefully add the lye crystals to the water and stir until dissolved. Allow to cool to 90° to 100°F. If the oils and lye water cool at different rates, you can use a cold- or hot-water bath in the sink.

3. PREPARE THE MOLD While the oils and lye water cool, line the mold with parchment paper.

4. COMBINE AND BRING TO TRACE When both the oils and lye water are 90° to 100°F, carefully pour the lye water into the pot of oils. Use a stick blender (or hand mixer) to mix for 1 to 2 minutes and then let the mixture rest for 4 to 5 minutes. Repeat mixing and resting until light trace.

5. MIX IN NATURAL ADDITIVES When the soap reaches light trace, add the lavender and patchouli essential oils and blend for 30 seconds.

6. MIX IN COLORANTS Transfer ½ cup of the soap to a separate bowl and set aside. Remove another ½ cup and add the nettle leaf. Whisk to remove any lumps. Return the green soap to the main batch and blend until fully incorporated.

7. MOLD THE SOAP When the soap is at medium trace (just a little thinner than pudding), pour the main batch of green-colored soap into the mold. Pour the cream soap in a line horizontally, back and forth, over the top of your batch, making stripes. Insert a chopstick into the batter until it reaches the bottom of the mold. Drag the chopstick vertically, back and forth, across the length of the mold. Stop there or add extra swirls by returning the chopstick to the starting point and retracing your steps, making small circles across the length of the soap. Cover with a lid or parchment paper and insulate with a blanket for 24 hours.

8. CUT AND CURE Remove the soap from the mold. If it seems too soft to remove, wait another 12 to 24 hours before removing. Cut the soap into 12 (4-ounce) bars. Allow the bars to cure in a well-ventilated location for 4 to 6 weeks.