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How to make a great soy wax candle.

Making a great soy wax candle is dependent upon following guidelines relating to temperature – both melting and pouring temperature, fragrance quantities, wick size and method.

Items Required

- Soy wax
- Wicks
- Candle Fragrance
- Colour blocks
- Glassware
- Melting pot
- Thermometer

Preparation

Wipe clean your glassware with a paper towel

Select the correct wick size – the wider the glass the thicker the wick (eg, Size 6.5 is suitable for a glass 7cm to 8cm in diameter), apply a stickum or hot glue to the metal tab, and firmly press the metal tab to the bottom of the glass (use kebab sticks or a thin metal or plastic tube).

Centre the top of the wick by wedging between 2 kebab sticks cello-taped firmly together.

Quantities

Each kilogram of wax flakes makes about 1.1 litres (1100ml) of candle

Example – to make 8 x 180ml candles; formula is:- $8 \times 180\text{ml} = 1440\text{ml} / \underline{1100\text{ml}} = 1.3\text{kg}$

Fragrance quantity usage is 6% to 10%. Use 1 x 100ml bottle for each kilo of soy wax melted.

Example – a 100ml bottle of fragrance poured into 1.1 litres of melted wax (1kg of flakes) equates to 9.1% of volume ($100\text{ml} / 1100\text{ml} = 9.1\%$).

Colour blocks – each block will colour 2 to 3 kg of wax flakes

Method

Heat the GW464 soy wax slowly to 80' C using the double boiler method or microwave

At 80' C take off the heat and mix in the fragrances and colour while you are waiting for the temperature to fall to 65'C, Stir in well.

Begin to pour between 65'C – pour slowly and avoid creating turbulence as you pour so as not to create air pockets and sink holes.

DO NOT MOVE the glass after pouring - leave for 12 hours ! Then leave for a further 2 weeks before lighting the candle - the harder the wax the better the fragrance throw!

Cut the wick after 2 weeks and put the off-cuts in the packet they came from so you know the off-cut wick size and at a later date you may wish to buy the metal tabs to crimp on to the off-cut.

Please note – making a great soy wax candle is dependent on practise. Take notes of the temperatures and quantities relating to each batch you make. This will assist with troubleshooting and ensuring consistency of quality between batches.

Trouble shooting

- Uneven surface and/or sink holes – pouring temperature too low / pouring process too hurried
- Wax not adhering to the glass – failure to heat the wax to 80'C / pouring temperature too low
- Candle burns with a tunnelling effect – wick under-sized