

# HOW TO MAKE FLOATING & VOTIVE CANDLES

**CAUTION:** Keep wax, colours and scents from children - do not ingest. Adult supervision is strongly recommended. Read directions and safety precautions carefully before making candles. Never pour liquid wax into sink or drains. Fragrances can damage acrylic and plastic molds, so don't use excessive amounts (1-2% should be adequate) and must be well mixed into the wax before pouring into molds - the same is true for dye. Molds should be washed in hot water containing a mild detergent after use, and dried thoroughly before storage or next use (any water left in the mold will ruin the candle). **NOTE:** When pouring a candle, the mold should be filled completely. It is not recommended to make a candle shorter than the height of the mold, as it will be difficult to remove it once it has set.

**SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:** Wax used in candle making is flammable, and precautions should be taken to avoid accidents.

1. Wax should be melted over boiling water using a double boiler system. Wax should NEVER be heated directly over a heat source as it can cause the wax to explode and result in serious injury.
2. Use of a thermometer is a must to insure proper pouring temperature.
3. Never leave hot wax unattended.
4. When mixing any additives into wax, do so slowly and carefully.
5. Never pour water on a wax fire. To put out a wax fire cover with a lid or use a dry chemical fire extinguisher.

Instructions:

**Step #1:** Melt wax using a Double Boiler method (a large tin can, such as a coffee can placed in a pot of water works well). Never melt wax on direct heat as it heats too quickly and can reach its flash point quickly (catches fire). Always use a thermometer to regulate the temperature of your wax (a candy or meat thermometer works well). Only melt as much wax as is needed as it can deteriorate from being repeatedly re-melted.

**Step #2:** When the wax has reached the proper pouring temperature (see recommended pouring temperatures below), add any necessary additives (see below) and mix thoroughly. If scent is desired, add it just before pouring the wax into your molds, as it is heat released and will lose its fragrance if added too soon. Be sure to use only oil based scents and mix into the wax thoroughly.

**Step #3:** Your molds should be placed on an even, heat safe surface. Use a pouring pot to scoop the wax from your double boiler and gently pour it into your molds, filling them to the top.

**Step #4:** Allow the wax to cool a little, until there is a slight "skin" formed on top. Place a "Wick n' Tab" style wick into the candle so that it rests on the bottom of the mold. Support the wick with a pencil or skewer if necessary (it should stand by itself, but may

need propping up to keep it centered). If the “Wick n’ Tab” style wicks are placed in the wax while it is too hot, the coating will melt off and cause the wick to droop.

Step #5: Allow wax to cool and set. Paraffin & Beeswax will shrink when they cool, leaving a dip in the top of the candle. Topping this up with more wax until it is level will help to even the top out, but there may still be a slight dip. The candles should be ready to remove from the mold in about 2-2.5 hours. To speed up this process, the molds can be placed in cool water or even the fridge. This will however, affect the finish of the candle. Once the candle has completely set, pull gently upwards on the wick and push up from the bottom of the mold. If the candles will not release from the mold, cooling them in the fridge may help.

#### MEASUREMENTS:

Polybar – add 1 tblsp per Pound (unless otherwise stated)

Mold Releasant – add 1 tsp per Pound (unless otherwise stated)

Scent – add 0.5% - 2% to liquid wax

Dye – start by adding small amounts to get an idea of how it will colour the wax.

Temperatures - Plastic Molds pour at 170°F – 180°F (**do not pour above 190°F or the mold may melt!**)

- Metal Molds pour at 180° F

- Acrylic Molds pour at 190°F

**ALWAYS USE A THERMOMETER TO REGULATE WAX TEMPERATURE!**