



Basic Candle Making Instructions

2nd Edition
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Congratulations on your decision to use Brookstone Candle Company candle making supplies! Hopefully this guide to candle making will be helpful to you. As much as we would like to be right with you making candles, it just isn't possible, for obvious reasons! Since we can't be in your kitchen together, you have to assume your own liability for your safety in following these instructions. We take no responsibility for any outcome relating to your safety, candle success, state of the mess in your kitchen, number of neighbors requesting that you make candles for them etc... That being said, let's have some fun!

By choosing to use Brookstone Candle Company supplies, you have made a really wise choice. These products are designed to provide you with the highest quality results available. These are professional products and are the same fragrances, waxes and wicks used by the major candle makers in the United States today. These are not "craft quality" ingredients at all! By purchasing your supplies from Brookstone Candles, you have found the secret to making highly scented candles at truly affordable prices.

Speaking of supplies, just what do you need to make candles? Let's assume that we are talking about doing a candle that will be poured into and burned in a container. Other supplies will come into play with other types, but for now, let's cover the basics. You will need:

- A heat source like a kitchen stove or burner.
- A double boiler system to melt wax (I'll explain later.)
- Something to stir the wax with
- A hot glue gun and hot glue melting sticks
- A flat surface to work on
- A hot pad or potholder
- Paper towels
- A metal measuring spoon
- A heat-resistant container to pour your candle into
- Proper wick type for the candle you are making
- Wick tabs (if you aren't using pre-tabbed wicks)
- Brookstone Superior Soft wax
- Brookstone Fragrance Concentrates
- Brookstone Color Pott
- Safety glasses/eye protection

Now that you have everything assembled, let's take just a moment to talk about safety. **DON'T SKIP THIS SECTION!!!** What we are dealing with here is really important. Here are a few things you need to keep in mind when you are making candles:

- NEVER allow small children or pets into your kitchen while you are making candles. Just don't do it. If something should spill on them, the burns could be severe.
- NEVER heat wax directly over an open flame. Be sure to use the double boiler system.
- ALWAYS wear eye protection while measuring and pouring in candle fragrance concentrates. I speak from experience on this one. One day I was doing a small batch of cinnamon candles up and got lazy. I didn't put on my eye protection. When I poured the fragrance concentrate into my melting pitcher full of hot wax, some of the fragrance splashed into my eye. Not only did it hurt like crazy, it scared the heck right out of me. Because I was careless, I risked my own sight! Now, that was just plain DUMB! Luckily, I was able to rinse my eye out, but it took well over an hour and was very painful.

If you do have some kind of incident while making candles, be sure to seek prompt medical attention. NONE of the candle making supplies are meant to be used internally. Do not under any circumstances use them for flavoring of food etc. I know, it sounds silly, but someone is probably bound to try it at least once. Just don't let it be you!!! They smell good enough to eat, but don't!

SETTING THINGS UP

Be sure that you have a nice clean work space to work in. You will need to have counter space enough to put your finished product on to set, and room to work. I like to set out a cookie sheet to work on. That way if I spill any wax, I can just wait for it to dry and then scrape it up. This works great!

Set up a double boiler system for melting your wax. It's not as hard as it sounds. Use an old pan filled about half way up with hot water. You can find old cookware at a second-hand store etc. In a second, smaller pan or metal pitcher, place your wax. The pitcher with the wax in it is set into the pan of water.

This is what it means to set up a double boiler. The container with the wax in it never touches the heat source. Your wax is melted from the heat of the boiling water around it. Don't mix water in with the wax. The two should never meet. Make sure that you keep water in the pan that is in direct contact with the stove. Don't let it boil dry. You can add more water to it as you need to.

To make your wax melt faster, carefully cut it into chunks and place in your melting pitcher. You can stir this as it melts to help it along a bit.

How much wax to make a candle? Well, you kind of have to judge this by sight a bit. A good idea is to weigh it out if you aren't sure. I've found that about 2 cups of wax is roughly a pound. That should help. The 16 ounce apothecary jars hold 2 cups of wax. The 26 ounce apothecary jars hold just over 3 cups.

Once you have the wax measured out and melting, you are on your way. While the wax is melting, this is a good time to prepare your container.

You want to choose a fire-safe container to pour your wax into. Remember, this is going to contain a flame, so choose wisely. I recommend a glass jar that is made for candles. The apothecary jars sold by Brookstone Candles are sturdy enough that they can be refilled and reused. (I offer my own customers a refill of their jar when it's empty for a minimal charge, but only if it is in a Brookstone apothecary jar.)

Prepare your jar by making sure it is clean and dry. If it has been in a cold environment, let it warm up before you pour hot wax into it. Some people pre-warm their jars by putting them into a warm oven. You can do this if you want to, but it isn't essential.

Now onto wicks. Your choice of wick depends on basically 2 things. First of all, what size container are you using? Second, what type of wax are you working with?

Here is a basic guide to choosing wick.

Zinc core wick is the "coolest" burning of all the wick types. It has a lead-free metal core that makes it stand up in the candle on its own. I like this kind the very best for doing container candles. It's easy to work with, and you get a good even burn.

Cotton core and paper core wicks are “hotter” burning wicks and work well with soy waxes etc. For more information on wicks, see the website at <http://www.BrookstoneCandles.com/candle.making.supplies.wick.html>

For a small candle, use a small wick. For a medium candle, use a medium wick, and for a candle with a mouth of 4 inches in diameter or more, use either a large wick, or 2 medium wicks. Personally, I like the 2 medium wicks. If you are using the apothecary jars, the 2 wicks (zinc core) are just perfect to get a good melt pool and even burn.

To prepare your wick, cut the wick to the desired length with scissors. Now, thread it through the wick tab. When the tab is at the bottom, use a pair of pliers and crimp the neck of the tab.

Now you are ready to attach the tab to your jar. Using a dab of hot glue, position the wick tab in place on the bottom of your container. Use a pencil to push it into place. That way you don't burn your fingers.

The advantage of using hot glue instead of a “sticky” substance is that you can reuse the jar more easily. The hot glue is removable if you choose to pop the old wick tab out of the jar and add a new one. I also like the hot glue method to secure the wick because it stays put, yet you have a window to reposition your wick if it doesn't go where you want it to initially.

Now that your container is ready to use, let's get back to the wax. If you choose, you can use a candy thermometer to measure the temperature of your wax. Now, I know some people are really hung up on this one. If it's important to you, and you are the type of person who watches a pot of water the whole time it sets to boil, go ahead and use the thermometer. When the wax reaches around 145 degrees, you can proceed to add your scent and colorant. I never use a thermometer, and still have perfect results every time. The Brookstone Superior Soft wax makes it that easy!

Have your wax all melted and ready to go? Now for the fun part! Put on your eye protection before you go any further. This is the time to add your scent and coloring. The Brookstone Candles fragrance concentrates are professional candle fragrances so you will use MUCH LESS than any other product you could use to scent candles. Large candle manufacturers don't use cheapie scents, and neither should you!!! If you want the best possible smelling candle, use the

best quality scent concentrates. You wouldn't make a cake with moldy flour, would you? To get the best product, use the best ingredients. Besides that, if you have a product that smells stronger and better than the competition, your sales are going to SOAR! This is where you really do set yourself above the rest of the pack. Using Brookstone fragrance concentrates will give you a superior candle each and every time.

Because they are professional fragrances, you will need to use much less than any other product to scent your candles. The amount of any scent that you can add to a candle really depends on the loading capacity of the wax. If the wax can hold 10% added oil, then that is all you can put in before the additional product will come out of solution. No matter how strong (or weak) your scent is, you can never overcome that loading capacity of the wax. It's kind of like putting sugar in a glass of Kool-Aid. Let's say that you want your glass as sweet as you can get it. You really have a sweet tooth and just crave that sugar....Well, there comes a point where you can't put any more sugar in the glass without it settling to the bottom. You have reached the "loading capacity" of the Kool-Aid.

Now, let's say that you have a better sugar. This one makes the Kool-Aid twice as sweet as regular sugar does (and, incidentally costs less),. You actually add less sugar, but your finished product is just as sweet as you crave. Doesn't it make sense to use the better sugar? That's just what Brookstone fragrance concentrates are like. They are the "better sugar" to make your candles incredibly strong and give you the fantastic fragrance that you crave.

Usual usage is just 1/2 ounce of Brookstone fragrance concentrate per pound of wax. So how much is 1/2 ounce? Well, it will vary a bit since some fragrances are "heavier" than others, but a good general guide is that 1/2 ounce of fragrance concentrate is about 1 Tablespoon. Please be sure to use a metal measuring spoon that you keep just for making candles. You don't want to use any product with food that you have used for doing candles. Remember, although these oils smell good enough to eat, you just can't do it!

Since you are already wearing your eye protection, you are ready to proceed. Carefully measure out the fragrance concentrate and stir it into your melted wax. What should you use to stir the wax with? I use a really high tech device available only at a Chinese restaurant. Yep, a wooden chopstick. It's cheap, disposable if you need it to be, and does a great job! Stir your scent for at least a minute to be sure it is mixed in really well.

Now that you have your scent mixed in, you are ready to add the colorant. Powdered colorant is the way to go. It give you the most color for your money, is super easy to use and give you vibrant colors every time. If you choose to use liquid colorant from somewhere else (shame on you!) be aware that it is most likely just powdered colorant diluted with a benzene based product. Do you know what benzene is? Try a cancer causing agent! Now, doesn't that sound great to have in a candle burning in your home? Not to me, it doesn't! Be safe, and use the powder colors.

You can vary the shade you get depending on how much you put it in. Now, don't think you have to use a ton, because you don't. Start out by dipping the chopstick that you have been stirring you wax with into the powdered color. Yep, I'm serious. You may use that little! If you need more, you can add it as you desire. So how do you know when your candle is just the right finished shade? Drop a bit of wax onto a white piece of paper. When the wax is dry, you will know what the finished shade will be. How easy is that?!

You will need to do some more stirring here. Make sure that all the colorant is dissolved in the wax. If you don't get it stirred in enough, your finished product will have "speckled" areas where the colorant didn't mix in well. It's kind of pretty though, so you may just like this look. I think the burgundy is neat looking this way.

Since you already have your jar prepared, you are ready to pour the wax in. Place the cookie sheet on the flat work surface, and put the prepared container on it. Now, using the hot pad, lift the melted wax out of the hot water bath. Let the boiling water drip off the bottom of the pitcher (or pan if that's what you are using.) At this point, I carefully wipe the water off the bottom of the pitcher with a paper towel.

Now, pour your wax gently and slowly into your container. After you have your wax poured in, kind of work on centering your wicks in the wax. You can still more them around a bit later, but get them at least kind of where you want them. The zinc core wicks are great here because you they stand up on their own really well. If you have too little wax, quickly melt just a bit more and add it to your container to take the level up to where you need to be. If it's really close to where you want it, you probably won't have to worry about adding any more scent or colorant. After all, you are using the super "sugar" we talked about earlier!

What do you do if you have a bit too much wax? There are a couple of things that work really well, If you have a few smaller jars, this is a great time to put them to use. I love the 4 ounce hex jars (<http://www.BrookstoneCandles.com/candle.making.supplies.glass.html>) for just this purpose. They are always great sellers for me, and they have so little wax in them that it's a great money maker. Another option is to put the extra wax into a clean, dry yogurt container. You can add this to another batch later. Just melt it down with the new batch. Works great!

Now all you have to do is wait for your candle to cool. When it's done, you can do a bit of touch up work if you need to. Sometimes you have a bubble or two that forms while it cools. You can either put the candle in the broiler of your oven for a minute or two to smooth it out, or you can do what I do. I use a heat tool like the kind you use for embossing powder with rubber stamping. Don't use a hair dryer unless you want wax spattered all over the place! The heat tool is absolutely perfect for making your finished candle have a perfect top. This also helps if you have a bit of uneven cooling that leaves the surface less than perfect.

That's about all there is to it! When your candle is completely cool, you can burn it. Congratulations on making your own candle!

Thanks so much for supporting Brookstone Candles. We really appreciate your business. Making your candles the best they can be is what we are all about. Remember.....Brookstone Candle Company.....Superior fragrance oils for those who know quality!

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