

Soap Casting

CRAFT
CLUB



Silo Studio is the design collaboration of Attua Aparicio Torinos and Oscar Lessing. They formed the partnership while studying Design Products MA at the Royal College of Art, London. Coming from backgrounds in engineering and design, they explore industrial processes and materials, bringing them into the studio to develop. They have a hands-on approach, which they call 'handmade hi-tech', mixing together craft and technology.

silo studio

In this resource they show you how to make your own bar of soap using natural ingredients such as charcoal and cocoa powder.



All children should be supervised by an adult during this activity.

Ingredients:

- melt and pour soap base (clear, opaque or both)
- colouring agents: cocoa powder (brown), turmeric powder (yellow or orange depending on concentration), spirulina powder (green), activated charcoal (black)
- isopropyl alcohol (optional, available online)
- essential oils (optional)
- firing clay

We recommend buying the soap base from www.thesoapkitchen.co.uk

Tools:

- microwave
- microwavable jug
- knife
- chopping board
- spoons
- small bowl
- Tupperware container or something similar



1. Cut the soap base into smaller pieces, put them in the jug and microwave them until melted, a few seconds at a time. Soap bases melt at around 50°C. Be careful not to overheat it.



2. In a small bowl mix a small amount of colouring agent with a bit of alcohol. Add to the molten soap and stir. Add essential oils for smell, around 5 drops per bar of soap.



3. Pour the coloured soap into a container and let it cool down. This will make the coloured pieces inside your soap.



4. Take the soap out of the container and cut it into little pieces. Cut, peel or grate the soap into little pieces. Repeat the previous steps for each colour you want to use.



5. Use some clay to make your mould. Seal off any gaps to ensure it doesn't leak.



6. Place some of your coloured bits of soap into the mould.



7. Repeat step 1 and pour in the melted soap.



8. Let it cool down for 20 to 40 minutes.



9. When the soap is firm, take it out of the mould.



10. Wash away any clay from the surface to finish it off.

Craft Club is a national campaign that champions craft in schools, galleries, libraries and anywhere else you can bring people together to share craft skills.

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