

Gladstone Regional Library MakerTime

What is a MakerSpace?

A MakerSpace is a collaborative workspace used for making, learning, exploring and sharing ideas that uses high-tech (e.g. 3D Printing) to no-tech tools (e.g. Knitting).

What is MakerTime?

MakerTime sessions are creative sessions aimed at teaching or providing a chance to practice new arts, crafts, science and technology.

Some MakerTime sessions previously run include:

- Quilling
- Jam making
- Galaxy Pendants
- Spool Knitting
- Squishy Circuits
- Sewing
- Embroidery
- Paper Pot creation
- Papercraft
- Robotics
- Macramé and
- 3D Printed Christmas Decorations
- Learners Permit for Cricut

Information Handouts:

This range of information handouts have been created as a beginner's guide to a variety of self-paced activities. There are a large variety of resources readily available both in library and online for guidance and ideas.

Further Reading and References

The following resources contain more information about the topic:

1. 2023. [online] Available at:
Ref: <https://aussiesoapsupplies.com.au/getting-started-with-melt-pour-soapmaking/> [Accessed 20 June 2023].
2. Berry, Jan., 2019. *Easy homemade melt & pour soaps: a modern guide to making custom creations using natural ingredients& essential oils*. Salem MA., page Street Publishing.
3. Cable, Kelly, 2021. *Easy soap making*. Emery, California, Rockridge Press

After attending one of our Lerner Permit sessions, several of our different craft machines e.g., Cricut and sewing machines, are available for public to borrow and use at their local library branch.

MakerTime sessions are available at all branches region-wide including:

- Agnes Water Library
- Boyne Island Library
- Calliope Library
- Gladstone City Library
- Miriam Vale Library
- Mount Larcom Library
- Precinct Library

For more information visit:

www.gladstonelibraries.qld.gov.au

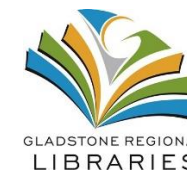
Gladstone Regional Libraries

MakerTime DIY Collection

Basics Melt and Pour Soap



Image: Gladstone Regional Libraries
Source: Gladstone Regional Libraries



Basic Melt and Pour Soap

With some basic supplies you can make your own soap for your own use or to give as a gift.

Materials:

- Melt and pour soap base
- Knife or blade to cut bulk soap
- Heatproof jug/ bowl
- Thermometer
- Isopropyl spray (Isocol)
- Optional- essential oils, fragrances, coloured powder
- Soap moulds

How to Start:

1. Cut bulk soap into small chunks (for easier melting) and add to heatproof jug.
2. Prepare colour powder by mixing with isopropyl
3. Melt soap base in microwave using short bursts (30 seconds) until soap base is liquid. The optimal temperature is 55-65 degrees, overheating can cause sweating of the soap base and affects the soap's composition.
4. Prepare soap mould by spraying with isopropyl.
Note: You need to use a mould that can withstand higher temperatures so it doesn't melt when you pour in hot soap. You also want it to be flexible so it's easy to unmould the bars. Silicone and plastic moulds are perfect.
5. Add colour and fragrance to the melted soap base.
Note: In Melt & Pour Soap you can let your imagination and nose run wild! Usually 10 - 15ml of fragrance per kilo is sufficient, but like essential oils, fragrances vary in intensity, so let your nose be the judge. Don't be frightened to blend or mix essential oils and fragrance, or even different fragrances together to get a blend YOU like. 20 drops = 1 ml (ie 25 drops in 50mls of carrier oil/soap)
6. Pour soap into moulds then spray the surface with isopropyl to prevent bubbles forming.

You can customise your soaps by adding herbs, flowers, exfoliating items such as oats, coffee and nuts. Clear soap bases can highlight additives such as lavender flowers and make lovely gifts. Goats milk and Beeswax can also be purchased as melt and pour soap bases.

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