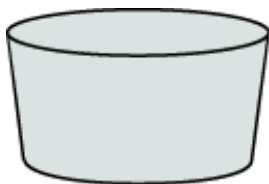


Candle Making

Candle wax	Newspaper (to cover working area)	Ladle
Saucepan	Wick (or string)	2 Stirrers
Pudding basin	Pencil or stick	Vaseline
Mould		

It's a good idea to cover your work area with newspaper, dried wax can be difficult to remove from some surfaces. Don't pour wax over or down the kitchen sink, it'll stop up the drain.

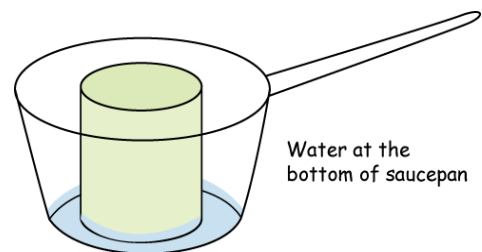
Be aware that wax is flammable at high temperatures. Wax while it is heating should never be left unattended. **Note: It should also never be heated to the point that it sputters or smokes.** If it should catch fire, cover it with a lid and turn off the stove. Never pour water on a wax fire.



Create a mould with a variety of disposable food or beverage containers that you can reuse and give a new usefulness. Do not use any mould which has ridges. Make sure the mould has a mouth that is wider than the base so the candle can slide out easily.

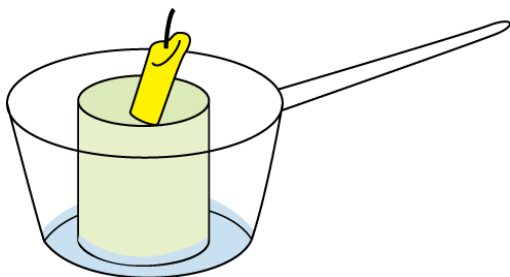
Grease the inside of the mould with Vaseline. This will allow for easy removal.

Wax should never be heated directly in a pot; always heat wax indirectly with a double boiler. Since wax can be difficult to remove from pots, you'll probably want to improvise a double boiler with an old pudding basin in a pot of water.



Put a medium-sized saucepan on the stove, filled with a couple of inches of water, on high heat. Place a pudding basin in the water while it is heating.

There should always be some water in the saucepan, but not so much that it floats the basin around.



While your water is warming up, you can start placing the wax in the basin (if you are reusing old candles it may be easier to grate them first as they melt quicker).

Crayons are the best way to colour candles. One candle per 1/4 pound of wax provides a deep, rich colour. Mix different coloured crayons and see what you can come up with. Combining half of a white crayon in with half of a coloured crayon makes a softer colour.

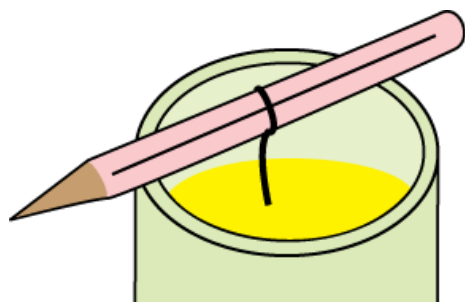
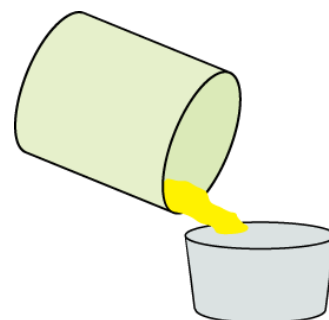
Cut thick cotton string about three inches longer than your mould will require.

When your wax is melted, dip cotton string in wax.

Hang your wicks from a clothesline or place them on waxed paper, being sure to lay them out in a straight line so you'll have nice straight wicks when you need them later.

Candle Making

Remove the basin from the boiling water. Use a pot holder or a kitchen cloth for this. Let the wax cool for a minute or two before being poured into the mould



You'll need a pencil to lay across the mouth of the mould in order to hold the wick in place while the wax hardens.

Most candles need at least a day before you remove them from the mould. Even though your candle may look hardened, the wax inside is probably still not solid. Don't rush the cooling process, or your efforts will be undone.

If you cannot remove the candle, immerse the mould in very hot water for a few seconds. This will slightly melt the outside of the candle and it should slide out.