Basic Homemade Soap Recipe

All recipes are based on *WEIGHTS,* not volume. You will need to weigh oils and lye with a good scale. Water can be measured with a liquid measuring cup with no problems.

To make 9 pounds of pure, hard, smooth soap suitable for toilet, laundry or soap flakes, follow this simple recipe:

- **One 13 ounce can of lye** *(the way it was packaged at the time)*
- **2 1/2 pints (5 cups) *cold* water** (this will become very hot after you stir in the lye... you must start with *cold* water)
- **6 pounds clean fat (tallow or lard or some combination of tallow and lard**) *Note:* (Six pounds of fat is about 6 3/4 pints or 13 1/2 standard cups of liquid fat.)

Other Soap Recipes:

Tallow Soap. One can of lye; mutton or beef tallow 6 pounds; Water 2 3/4 pints; lye solution 90ºF.; fat 130º F. All tallow soap is often referred to as "saddle soap" because it is valuable as a cleaner and preserver of leather. Substitution of 1 Ib. of tallow with lard, coconut or olive oil will improve the lathering properties.

Coconut Oil Soap. One can of lye; coconut oil 4 1/2 pounds; water 2 1/2 pints; lye solution 70º F.; oil 110ºF. This soap gives a very profuse but thin lather. Substitute tallow or lard for part of this oil for thicker lather.

Glycerin Soap. To make glycerine soap, add about 6 ounces of glycerine to any soap shortly after the lye solution has been added.

Imitation Castile Soap. A very high grade soap which in many respects is superior to castile soap can be made as follows: Olive oil 24 ounces; tallow (good grade) 38 ounces; coconut oil 24 ounces; fats 90ºF.; 1 can of lye; water 2 pints. Cooled to 90ºF.

Cottonseed Oil Soap. One can of lye; cottonseed oil 5 3/4 pounds; water 3 pints; lye solution 135ºF.; oil 135ºF. This oil is a little more difficult to saponify and lye should be added in small portions at a time, obtaining complete saponification before the further addition of lye. The resulting product will be a rather soft soap. For harder soap substitute part of the cottonseed oil with tallow.

Abrasive Soap. Follow recipe for making soap. When mixture thickens add, gradually. 5 to 6 Ib. of pumice stone, emery dust or Tripoli powder and stir until the mixture is thoroughly blended or all the lye incorporated. Pour into mold and cover. Yield: 13 to 15 lbs.

Abrasive Soap Paste. A fine soap for household scouring and for mechanics' hands. Shave 3 Ibs. homemade soap and melt it in three pints of water. Add 3 ounces of light mineral oil. When this is thoroughly blended, allow it to cool to a thick consistency and work in 5 Ibs. of pumice stone or Tripoli powder. Keep tightly covered to prevent paste drying out. Yield: 11 lbs.

Jelly Soap. For use in washing machines and for washing dishes. Lye hard soap converted into jelly soap is convenient and economical to use. Cut 1 pound of hard soap into fine shavings and add 1 gallon of

water. Boil for about 10 minutes then transfer to a suitable vessel to cool. Keep covered to prevent drying out. Jelly soap melts in hot water immediately and makes thick suds.

Liquid Soap. Cottonseed oil 4 pounds; coconut oil 11/4 pounds, glycerine 3 pints, alcohol 6 1/2 pints; water 7 pints. Dissolve 1 can of lye in a mixture of 3 1/2 pints each of alcohol and water and heat to 125ºF. Have the oils at 150ºF and add a few ounces of the lye solution, stirring slowly and evenly. When saponification is about complete, add a few ounces of lye solution with continued stirring and repeat until all the lye solution is in. Cottonseed oil is sometimes rather hard to saponify, i.e, to make it unite with the lye, and slight separation of oil might occur after the above procedure if the lye has been added too rapidly. In this case, allow it to stand 24 to 48 hours with occasional stirring. When a perfect mixture is obtained with no separation of oil, add the glycerine and the remaining alcohol and water. Allow to stand for a couple of days and if any sediment settles out, filter or siphon off the clear liquid. Then color and perfume as desired.

Fish Oil Soap

One can of lye; fish oil 4 1/2 pounds; water 3 pints; lye solution 80ºF.; oil 100ºF. Stir well for about 10 minutes and then allow to stand with occasional stirring until combination is complete, then transfer to the molds. This soap is used as a basis for sprays for use as insecticides and fungicides.

Linseed Oil Soap. One can of Iye; linseed oil 5 3/4 pounds ***[be sure it's RAW linseed oil, not the boiled type]***; water 4 pints; lye solution 90ºF.; oil 100ºF. Add lye solution in small quantities at a time and get good combination before further addition. This makes a soft soap. Recommended for washing automobiles and furniture.

Dissolve lye in cold water (never use an aluminum container...you can use stainless steel or heat resistant glass like Pyrex). Stir until dissolved and let *cool* (your previously cold water will become *very* HOT in a matter of seconds after stirring in the lye) to correct temperature (temperature chart is below). Melt fat to clear liquid and let cool gradually to correct temperature or until the fat offers resistance to the spoon. Stir from time to time to prevent the crystals of fat reforming. Pour the lye solution into the fat in a thin, steady, stream with slow, even stirring. (Note: I've found that transferring the lye solution to a Rubbermaid plastic pitcher...with a pouring spout...makes this easy to control by myself. I mix the soap in a large stainless steel mixing bowl or spaghetti cooker (which is nicer because it is narrower and deeper) right on the stove where I melted the fat [with the burner OFF] and use a portable electric mixer for the first 10 minutes, after which I switch to a large spoon. If you are working in a cold room and your soap starts looking like the fat is setting up before saponification has really happened, you can turn the burner onto low briefly to warm the stuff up, if need be.) (Rapid addition of lye solution or hard stirring is liable to cause a separation.) A honey-like texture is formed which in about 10 or 20 minutes (for this recipe, in my experience, usually 20 to 30 minutes, but contrary to their instructions, faster blending is usually much better than doing it too slow. Using a stick blender has convinced me of that. If you're hand stirring, just don't get wild and splatter the stuff all over you and the stove!) becomes thick with all the lye incorporated into the fat. (If you are adding scent to your soap, this is the time to stir it in. When the soap is thick enough to "trace" or gently draw a line on the top of it with a spoon, it's time to stir in the scent. See further information under "Variations in Soapmaking." When the soap is close to being ready to pour, it will usually start looking duller on top and form a bit of a fine ring around the edges of the bowl or pan it's in. It should have a satin finish and smooth texture... not be terribly grainy. If your soap starts looking grainy too soon, apply some gentle bottom heat to the bowl for a minute or two while stirring until the graininess disappears... be sure to turn the burner OFF after that brief heating period.). Pour this mixture into a wooden box that has been soaked in water and lined with a *clean cotton cloth dipped in water and wrung nearly dry.

Place in a protecting pan. Cover with a board or cardboard then with a rug or blanket to retain the heat while it is texturing out. Let it remain undisturbed for 24 hours - then cut and lift from mold.