How to Start Candle Making With Soy Wax and a Double Boiler

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Make your first batch of eight-ounce soy container candles that burn clean, melt evenly, and skip tunneling, using a double boiler, a thermometer, and a real wick burn test.

Things you will need

- Digital kitchen scale reading to 1 gram
- Clip-on thermometer with a 100 Celsius range
- Stainless steel pouring pitcher with a spout
- Double boiler or dedicated melting pot
- Eight-ounce straight-sided glass jars with lids
- Ruler for measuring jar internal diameter
- Cotton wicks rated for container soy wax
- Metal wick sustainers or wick bars
- Adhesive wick stickers
- Spring wick holders or wooden chopsticks
- Container soy wax with a technical data sheet
- Candle-grade fragrance oil with a safety data sheet
- Kraft paper or silicone mat for the work surface
- Heat gun or hair dryer for surface fixes

Set Up the Wax Station Once

1. **Weigh Wax on a Digital Scale That Reads Grams**
   Weigh every ingredient by grams rather than cups or pour lines.
2. **Use a Thermometer That Reads to One Hundred Celsius**
   Pick a clip-on or instant-read thermometer that reaches at least 100 degrees Celsius, or 200 Fahrenheit, with a one-degree display.
3. **Dedicate a Pitcher and Double Boiler to Wax**
   Use a stainless steel pouring pitcher with a real spout, and melt in a double boiler or a dedicated pot set in a pan of water.
4. **Assemble Jars, Wicks, Sustainers and Wick Stickers**
   Buy eight-ounce glass jars with lids, cotton wicks rated for container soy wax, metal sustainers or wick bars, and adhesive wick stickers; this supply set costs $15 to $25 for a starter quantity.
5. **Keep Wick Clips or Chopsticks Within Reach**
   Have wick-centering tools ready before the first pour: spring metal wick holders, disposable wooden chopsticks, or popsicle sticks laid across the jar mouth.

Match Wax, Wick Size and Fragrance Load

6. **Choose Soy Wax With a Published Technical Datasheet**
   Choose a container soy blend that ships with a technical data sheet, such as a 464-style soy wax, and read the melt point, recommended fragrance-add and pour temperatures, and maximum fragrance load before you buy anything else.

7. Size the Wick to the Jar Diameter First

Match the wick to your measured internal diameter using the wick supplier's chart, then treat the chart's answer as a starting point, not a verdict.

8. Burn-Test Three Wick Sizes in Identical Jars

Before committing a full batch, pour three identical test candles in the same jars, with the same wax, fragrance weight, and pour temperature, each with one wick size from the chart plus one size up and one down.

9. Dose Fragrance at Six to Eight Percent by Weight

Dose candle-grade fragrance oil at 6 to 8 percent of the wax weight, measured on the same scale, and never above the maximum usage rate printed for that specific oil.

10. Keep Fragrance Away From Heat Sources

Before using any oil, find the flash point on its safety data sheet.

Melt, Scent, Pour and Cure the First Batch

11. Melt Wax Gently Between Seventy and Eighty Celsius

Melt in the double boiler to the range on your datasheet, commonly about 70 to 82 degrees Celsius, 160 to 180 Fahrenheit, for soy container blends, stirring once or twice.

12. Stir Fragrance in Slowly for Two Full Minutes

Let the melted wax cool to the datasheet's fragrance-add temperature, often around 50 to 55 Celsius for soy, then add the weighed fragrance and stir slowly but constantly for a full two minutes in one direction with the thermometer still clipped in.

13. Warm the Jars Before the Pour

Pre-warm clean, dry jars to roughly 40 to 50 Celsius, 105 to 120 Fahrenheit, either on a baking tray in the coolest oven setting or near a warm surface for ten minutes.

14. Anchor the Wick Dead Center Before Pouring

Press a wick sticker or a dab of hot glue under the sustainer, stick the wick bar to the exact center of the jar bottom, and hold it vertical with a spring wick holder or two chopsticks across the mouth.

15. Pour Slowly and Plan a Second Top-Up

Pour at the datasheet's pour temperature, commonly 50 to 58 Celsius, 125 to 135 Fahrenheit for soy, down one side of the tilted jar rather than straight onto the wick, and leave a little wax in the pitcher.

Burn-Test, Troubleshoot and Light Safely

16. Cure Twenty-Four to Forty-Eight Hours First

Let poured candles sit undisturbed at room temperature for twenty-four to forty-eight hours before the first burn test, and wait seven to fourteen days before judging scent strength.

17. Trim to Six Millimeters Then Burn-Test Twice

Trim the wick to six millimeters, a quarter inch, before every single light including the first test, because an untrimmed factory tip flames high and soots immediately.

18. Fix Tunneling and Wet Spots by Cause

Tunneling means the wick is one size too small for the diameter or the first burn was cut short before the pool reached the wall; salvage the candle by scooping soft wax from around the wick until the flame stands level, or re-wick it with the next size up, and always burn the first lighting to a full pool.

19. Correct Mushrooming, Frosting and Sinkholes

A wick caking into a black mushroom means it is one size too large or trimming has slipped; extinguish, snip the char back to six millimeters, and move down a size in the next batch.

20. Cost Each Jar and Light It Safely

Tally the true cost: $1.50 to $2.50 of soy, $1.20 to $2.20 of fragrance, $1 to $2 for the jar, and $0.15 to $0.30 for wick and sticker, so $4 to $7 per jar plus your one-time $60 to $110 of gear.

Sources

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Written as a checklist from https://www.howcompass.com/how-to/Start-Candle-Making-With-Soy-Wax. Corrections: https://www.howcompass.co