

This kit, designed especially for Melt & Pour soap makers, includes the most frequently used tools acquired over the years and used daily by Paula Kates, owner of PJ Soaps.

Spatula: This tool is essential for making soaps like the Crescent Moon soap or any highly but faintly detailed surface. Pour a thin layer of soap at the bottom of the mold, let harden then scrape until all the ridges of the mold become visible.

Whisk: This is just about the best tool for mixing in mica's and fits into even the smallest dishes.

Wooden Double-Ended Cleanup Tool: The rectangular wire end of this tool is used every time I over-pour a mold. Because soap needs air to be released from the mold, if you over-pour soap into your mold this tool is PERFECT for scraping up excess soap around the edges so the desired air can get in. The other end of this tool, the pointed/curved end is a tool you'll want to have beside you at all times while pouring or injecting small quantities of soap into one section of a mold. Often the soap spills into another section that you wanted to color/scent differently. Let the overspill harden, then just score along your edge and pick the excess out with this sharp/curved end of the tool.

Injection Tool: Have a pot of simmering water on at all times while using this tool. Cut a small chunk of soap, put it in a microwave safe container (covered with plastic wrap). Zap for a few seconds just 'til melted (do not overheat your soap). Add your pigment till you have the desired shade, then any fragrance oils as desired. Stir until everything is evenly incorporated. Stick the tip of your pinky finger into the soap, if it's too hot to you're your finger in there it's too hot to pour into your mold. Let it cool covered. Stir again, if the soap starts to clump or form a skin you've let it cool too long and you can zap it in the microwave for a few more seconds. Once the soap is just the right temperature, stick the tip of the injector into the dish and draw back until it's full. Now the sky is the limit! Put a drop in at a time to make eyes or squeeze it all into the mold. Squeeze any remaining soap back into your dish and immediately draw hot water in and out of the injection tool, to clean and prevent clogging. Do this each time the tool is used and it should last you years!

- 1) **Keep Everything Clean (hands, containers for melting, tools for stirring):** You are working with very basic and natural products, and unlike soap at the grocery store these ingredients are not loaded with chemicals and preservatives.
- 2) **Don't Overheat The Soap:** The Soap Bases may be melted in a clean heat-resistant container in the microwave covered in plastic wrap for short bursts 40-55 seconds at a time then stirred 'til completely melted. Overheating soap can cause some soaps to yellow or even feel grainy (from crystallization).
- 3) **Melt Only As Much Soap As Needed:** Melt only as much in one container as you want colored and scented the same. So if you want three bars of soap but all a different color or scent then use three containers. If you want one scent but three shades of blue you may use one container and just add more pigment after the first soap is poured.
- 4) **SPF= Soap, Pigment, Fragrance:** That is the order you'll add your ingredients. Melt your soap, add the pigment then when the soap is still liquid but you can hold your pinkie finger tip in it without getting burned then you add your Fragrance or Essential Oil. (Tip: PJ Soaps uses only oxides, ultramarine's & mica's, no dyes and no bleeding colors - all available at Bramble Berry.)
- 5) **Think About Color Before You Melt:** You have two kinds of soap in your kit, one is Opaque (Shea Butter Soap) the other is Clear (Shaving Soap). Opaque soap will make many beautiful shades of pastel but if you want a dark color like black, deep red or midnight blue use the clear soap. For example, the amount of red pigment required to turn opaque soap blood red would be enormous and you will end up with a soap that gives off a blood red lather (and though it will not stain it's a waste of pigment or a bad joke for Halloween). :p
- 6) **Soap May Be Reheated:** If you melted, colored and scented too much red rose soap, don't worry. Cover it, set it aside and re-melt it when you need to color a wagon red or add more soap & fragrance at a later date when you want to make more red rose soap. Just keep it tightly covered in plastic wrap
- 7) **Layering Soap:** Every single time you pour warm soap over cold soap if you want the two layers to adhere and not fall apart spray the cold surface with rubbing alcohol. If you forget this step your layers WILL fall apart. :(
- 8) **It's Only Soap:** If it spills you've lost a little soap. If you don't like the look of it save it for the dog's next bath or re-melt it. Have Fun!