

Candle Wax Information



Natures Garden works very closely with some of the most experienced wax experts in the industry to be able to offer our customers the highest quality candle waxes on the market today. We include an MSDS sheet for all of our waxes on our website. Many of the waxes found below were developed exclusively for Natures Garden.

Paraffin Wax



There are several types of this kind of wax. Low melting point (126-132)-this type of wax is used for container candles, carved candles, and modeling. Medium melting point(135-145) – this type of wax can be used for dipping, floaters, molds. High melting point (145-150) – this type of wax is used for hurricane candles.

Microcrystalline Wax



There are 2 types of micro: Hard micro is used in the proportion 1% with paraffin wax to strengthen candles and make them slower burning. It can also be used as a dip to produce mottled candles. Its melt point is over 200. Soft micro is a low melting point wax that is combined with paraffin wax to make modeled wax. Adding about 10% or 1 ½ oz. per lb. to paraffin wax for container candles to make them stick to the containers better.

Beeswax



More expensive, but wonderful to use! Can be used by itself or add 5-10% to paraffin. Beeswax when added to paraffin will improve the candle's color and the burning time.

Natures Garden's Joy Wax



Exclusively sold at Nature's Garden! Joy wax is a blend of just the right amount of vegetable waxes, food grade paraffin, and other proprietary ingredients. It allows candles to smell stronger and does not provide candles with the rough flakiness that 100% soy wax does.

Directions for use: Melt joy wax (using a double-boiler method) to 200F. Add coloring to your specifications. Drop the temperature to 175-170F. Add 1 ounce of fragrance oil per pound of joy wax. Pour into containers at 165-160F. Wick your containers, and allow to cool at room temperature. We have found that zinc-core wicks work the best in this wax, however, HTP, CD, Hemp and Performa wicks may also be used with great success. As with any wax, trim your wicks before lighting candles.

Natures Garden's Soy Wax



100% all-natural soy wax. This wax is for container candles. Environmentally friendly, burns clean, burns evenly. Candles have a natural mottled look on top. The problem with candles made with all soy wax is that they may not have as strong of a scent throw as waxes containing paraffin. The tops of candles made with 100% soy wax will appear slightly flaky.

Heat soy wax to 185 degrees F. Add coloring. Add 1.5 oz. of Natures Garden concentrated fragrance oil of your choice, stir. Heavier fragrances (fragrances with higher flash points) can be added at 185 degrees F. Lighter fragrances (fragrances with lower flash points) such as citrus type fragrances, should be added at around 160 degrees F. Allow your soy wax to cool at room temp until it reaches 110 degrees F. Your wax will be slightly slushy in appearance. Pour soy wax at this temperature into containers to allow for smoother candle surfaces. Soy wax naturally provides a rough mottled appearance on the surface of the candle, however, if you would like for the surface to be flat, use a heat gun to smooth out the surface. NOTE: Soy wax can also be mixed with joy wax or WOW wax in equal proportions to provide a candle with stronger hot throw, and a smoother surface.

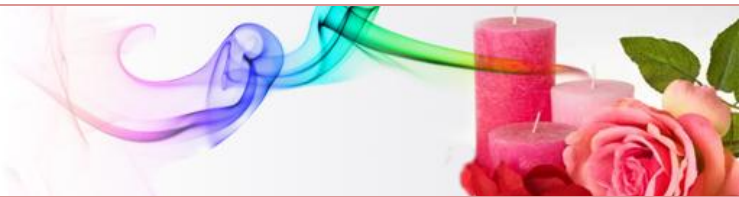
Natures Garden's WOW Wax



Exclusively sold at Natures Garden. A soft and creamy single-pour paraffin blend wax that was created for container candles and has an exceptional scent throw.

Instructions for use: Heat wax to 190 degrees. Add candle dye. Allow candle to cool to 180-170 degrees. Add 1 ounce of fragrance oil per pound of melted wax. We prefer to use CD Wicks or Zinc-Core wicks with this particular wax. Pour hot wax mixture at 170-165 degrees into your containers. Allow to cool at room temperature. Allow your candles to cure for approximately 3 days. Enjoy!

Natures Garden Palm Pillar Wax



Natures Garden's Natural Palm Pillar Wax- (cases are 60 pounds each). Palm waxes naturally create beautiful crystal structures that form as the candle cools. In order to fully accomplish this crystalline effect, it is pertinent that you pour this melted wax at 200 degrees, and cool your candles slowly.

Instructions for using Palm Pillar Wax- Melt wax to 210 degrees. Add liquid candle dye and 1 ounce of fragrance per pound of wax. Quickly pour hot candle wax into your molds at 200 degrees. Allow your candles to set up at room temperature. Pop out of your molds.

Natures Garden Granulated Wax



Excellent wax to use for Mom and Child Projects because the wax does not have to be heated in order to use it for candlemaking! Simply secure your wick to the bottom of a container using a hot glue gun, and sprinkle granulated wax into the jar. This will produce a candle that is ready to be lit. There is no need for melting the wax before pouring it into your jars. In order to make creative colors, you will want to color your granulated wax before putting it into your containers. Simply put granulated wax into a heavy duty zip lock bag, add a few drops of liquid candle dye, secure the closure of the bag, and shake.

For fragranced candles, add 1/2 ounce to 1 ounce of fragrance per pound of granulated wax and mix. Try making a rainbow candle with your children; they will simply love it! Natures Garden's Granulated Wax can also be melted and poured into containers if you prefer. Melt granulated wax to 175 degrees and add color. Add 1 ounce of fragrance per pound of wax, and pour melted wax into containers at 165 degrees. Our granulated wax is a paraffin blend wax.

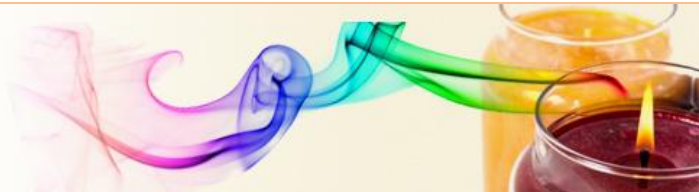
Natures Garden Pillar of Bliss Wax



A blend of soywax (more than 50%) and paraffin wax used for poured votive and pillar candles. Pillar of Bliss Wax has excellent fragrance retention with good cold and hot throw characteristics. Pillar of Bliss Wax comes in granulated form, and each case weighs 55-56 lbs.

Instructions for using Pillar of Bliss Wax: Melt wax to 195 degrees, and add coloring. Drop melted wax temperature to 180 degrees and add 1 ounce of fragrance per pound of melted wax. Pour $\frac{3}{4}$ of your melted wax at 175 degrees into your molds. Keep the remaining wax for your second pour. Allow the candles to set up at room temperature. The wax will naturally sink in the middle. Heat the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ of your wax to 165 degrees, and top off your candles in order to fill in the sink holes. Allow candles to cool at room temperature. Pop set-up candles out of the molds.

Natures Garden Palm Container Wax



Natures Garden's Natural Palm Container Wax- (cases are 60 pounds each). Palm waxes naturally create beautiful crystal structures that form as the candle cools. In order to fully accomplish this crystalline effect, it is pertinent that you pour this melted wax at 200 degrees, and cool your candles slowly.

Instructions for using Palm Container Wax- Melt wax to 210 degrees. Add liquid candle dye and 1 ounce of fragrance per pound of wax. Quickly pour hot candle wax into your containers at 200 degrees. Allow your candles to set up at room temperature.

Avoiding Problems!



Like one of my candle makers said one day, "Making candles is an art, not a job!" It takes time to become good at making candles....but why not start off on the right foot instead of making a lot of mistakes!?!

1. VOTIVES: when making votives, use the stainless 2 oz. molds, or polycarbonate molds; which you can use forever! The wax will come away from the mold easily without spraying them. We use a medium melt point pre blended wax for votives. Polycarbonate molds allow the outside of your votives to have a nice shine. Votives are actually very tricky!

2. Make sure the environment that you are pouring your candles is not too cold. This will cause your molds to become too cool. If your environment is cool, try warming your molds prior to pouring, otherwise you will get what they call, "jump lines" on your votives instead of a smooth surface. This happens because the wax closest to the mold cools too fast, while the wax in the center of the votive has not had a chance to cool.

3. Pour your votives at about 160. Don't get your wax too hot! Wax will take on a chemical smell if heated too hot. If your wax gets a fuel-like smell, it is ruined. You cannot add fragrance to it to cover up the foul smell.

4. Add your fragrance right before you pour your candles. If you allow the fragrance to sit in the pot for a long time....it will evaporate...your candles will not be as strong!

5. When pouring votives, save enough wax to top your candles off on your repour! We suggest waiting at least 3 hours before topping your first pour off. Do not add fragrance or anything to the second pour. This will cause the top of your candle to be lighter in color. We pour our second pour at 160 also. Some people tell you to make your second pour a little hotter, but my experience has shown that this may cause discoloration to occur. So be careful!

6. By the way, we use 44-28-18 zinc core wicks with a 20mm tab for our votives. If you do not want to use the zinc core wicks, you can also use the CD-5 wicks for votives. These wicks are pre tabbed so they save a lot of time. They also stand up straight, so all you have to do is wait until your votive starts to look a little cloudy, and then center your wick and straighten! Easy! Beats trying to tie a string to the top....and all that jazz! We have also never used wick stickums. In my opinion, it is just extra cost that you just don't need! Spend your money on good fragrance and wax!

7. Be careful when adding additives such as vybar to your wax! While vybar will indeed increase the smell of your candles, adding too much will prevent scent throw! There is a fine line. If we use vybar, we use 1/4- 1/2 tsp. per pound of wax.....never more than that!

8. Here's something to avoid! When you do your second pour on votive candles, only pour to the point of your first pour. Why? If you go beyond that first pour point, the wax will create small bubbles on the top of your candles...which end up being small holes!

9. What is wax's worst enemy? Water! Whatever you do, make sure that when you are pouring your candles that you put all of your molds on the edge of the counter that you are pouring on and move them back as they set up. If your pouring pot drips water into molds....you will have big holes! Not a pretty site! If you get water in your wax, make sure the water has a chance to evaporate out of the wax before using the wax.

10. Do not remove the votives from their mold until they have set up at least 2 hours. Removing them too fast will cause the outside to have rips in the wax. Allow them to set up at room temp for best results. Never place them in a freezer! This will cause them to crack while cooling.

11. If you make votives and they appear to have white flakes in them....this is a sign that you poured them at too low of a temperature or you used too much fragrance. This is a sign of an unstable candle.

Candle Additives



Additives / Colors / Fragrances

Additives - There are various additives sold for candle making. Stearin is added to wax in the proportion of 10% stearin to 90% wax (or 1 1/2 oz. stearin to 1 lb. wax). Stearin helps molds release because it makes the wax shrink upon cooling. It also increases the opacity of candle wax, and enhances dye colors. Vybar is the alternative to stearin. This also helps the scent throw of your candles. We use 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. of vybar to 1 lb. of wax for the very best results. Adding too much vybar will trap your fragrance....so be very careful! Petrolatum is added to wax to increase its oil content and make it creamier so that it will adhere to containers.

This also aids in reducing the wax melting point. We use 1-2 oz. of crisco shortening per pound of single pour wax to achieve a better scent throw. We have found that the crisco works better in some container waxes than the petrolatum does. If you would like to achieve a mottling effect to your candles, add 3 Tablespoons of mineral oil per 1 lb. of wax. Pour at 160 degrees, and do not use a water bath to cool the candles.

Colors - Candle color comes in various forms. You can choose from liquid dyes, powdered color, cakes, or chips. In my opinion, the color cakes will provide your candles with the best results, but the problem with the cakes is that it is very hard to be absolutely consistent with your colors. We bought a gram scale at one time to measure out our colors perfectly, but this takes a lot of time to do. We have tried the color chips, but in my opinion...once again...you have to weigh them out ...plus they are quite expensive. We use the color cakes when we desire a deep colored candle. Otherwise, we use liquid dyes. The problem with liquid dyes is that they have a chemical smell to them. Therefore, I would suggest using the liquid for lighter colored candles...and the cakes for the darker ones! **RULE OF THUMB:** Never use more than 10 drops of liquid dye to achieve your desired color, or you will be able to smell the chemicals in the dye.

Fragrance - When making candles, make sure that you are using fragrance oils designed for candlemaking. This fragrance must not contain alcohol or water! Concentrated fragrance oils will allow you to use only 1 oz. of fragrance per 1 lb. of wax. You may also use essential oils to fragrance your candles, but you will have to add an additive to your wax so that the essential oils will not settle to the bottom of your candles (this additive is called polysorbate 80). Essential oils are the actual oils extracted from plants. They are very very expensive to buy, but if you desire to make true Aromatherapy Candles, you should use the essential oils. All of the fragrances sold at Natures Garden are designed for candlemaking, and a host of other applications. All of our concentrated fragrances are created for Natures Garden by a master perfumist.